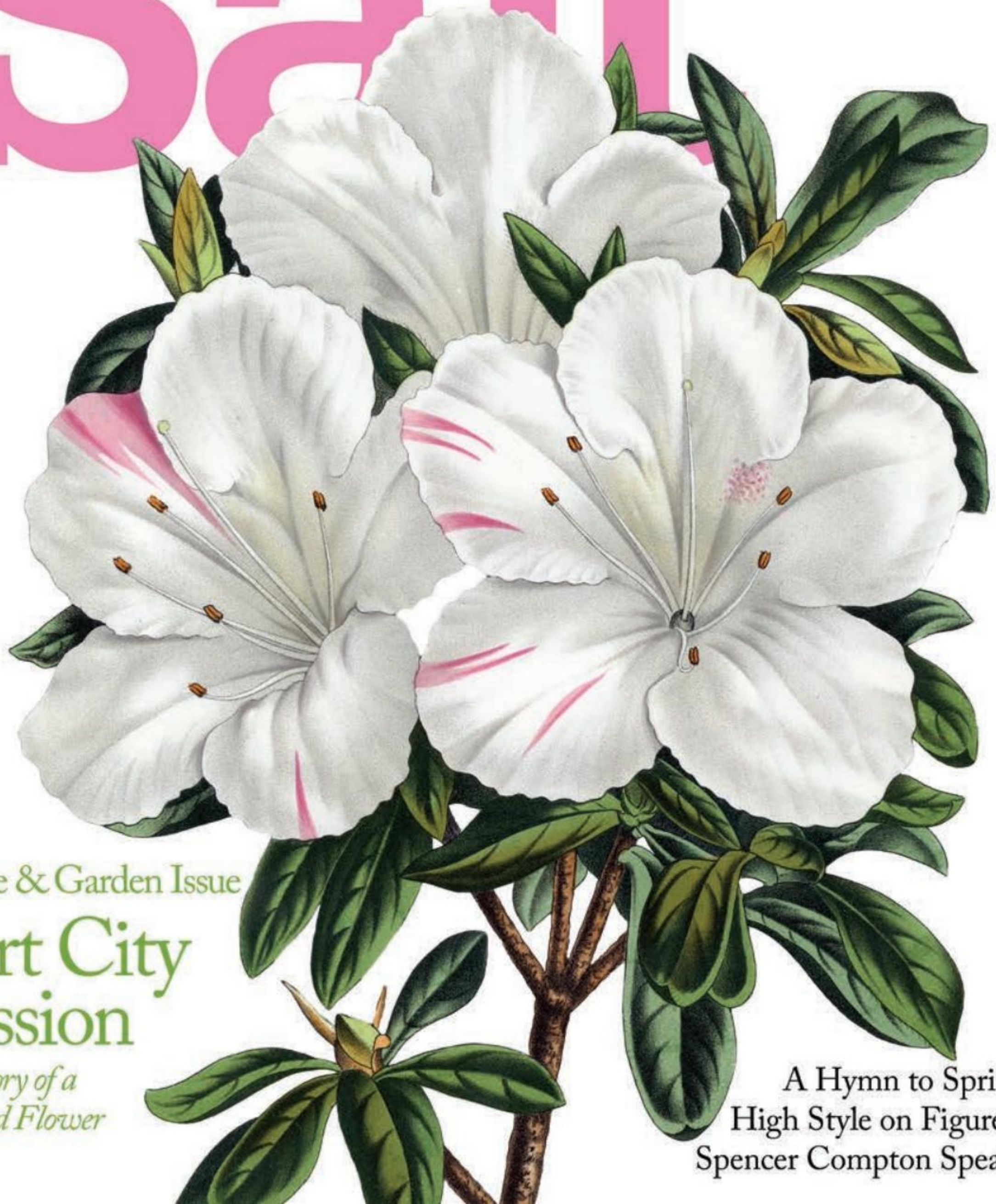
Salt

April 2018

The Art & Soul of Wilmington



Home & Garden Issue

Port City Passion

The Story of a Beloved Flower

A Hymn to Spring

High Style on Figure 8

Spencer Compton Speaks

Transform Your Bathroom Into a Home Spa...

There are over 40 benefits associated with steam bathing to include:

- Respiratory Health
- Skin Care
- Hollistic Health
- Well-Being & Relaxation
- Physical Wellness

mr.steam®
Feel Good Inc.™

KITCHEN • BATH
HUBBARD
LIGHTING SHOWROOM

Shop Local
...We'll Remember Your Name!

212 S. Kerr Avenue • Wilmington, NC 28403 • 910-399-4802
Visit our showroom online at www.hubbardkitchenandbath.com

THE WILMINGTON STANDARD IN DISTINGUISHED CONSIGNMENTS

The Ivy Cottage

DISTINGUISHED CONSIGNMENTS

Luxury for Less. Every Single Day.

ANTIQUES FINE JEWELRY STERLING SILVER CRYSTAL
CHINA LIGHTING PERSIAN RUGS

CLASSIC, MID CENTURY, COASTAL, CONTEMPORARY
FURNISHINGS AND DECOR, ART, COLLECTIBLES & MORE

THREE BUILDINGS, TWO COURTYARDS, & WAREHOUSE
OVER 100,00 IN CURRENT INVENTORY
9000+ ACTIVE CONSIGNORS
THREE TIERED STEP DOWN PRICING

THREECOTTAGES.COM
(910) 815.0907

3030 MARKET STREET
WILMINGTON, NC 28403

281 Beach Road N • Figure Eight Island • $2,195,000

Located on a high ridge lot overlooking the marsh and tidal creek in fabulous Figure 8 Island, this reverse plan offer great ocean views and convenient beach access across the street.

VANCE YOUNG

When Only The Best Will Do

Broker/REALTOR®

Direct: 910.232.8850

TOP PRODUCER
INTRACOASTAL REALTY

LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL

1205 Great Oaks Drive • Landfall • $2,995,000

Just what you have been looking for! New construction on the Intracoastal Waterway in Landfall. This spectacular coastal design by Logan Homes features the sought after open casual floor plan with all the latest bells and whistles including stainless steel natural gas appliances, and HVAC, tankless hot water heater, super energy efficient spray foam insulation, Quartz Counters, Ipe decking, telescoping doors, 3 car garage, 5 bedrooms (including 2 master suites on first floor) 5 1/2 baths.

1609 Landfall Drive • Landfall • $1,269,000

Waterfront Landfall villa situated on a high bluff overlooking the ICW. This all brick home features an open floor plan with floor to ceiling windows that fill the home with natural light and views of Wrightsville Beach and it's iconic drawbridge.

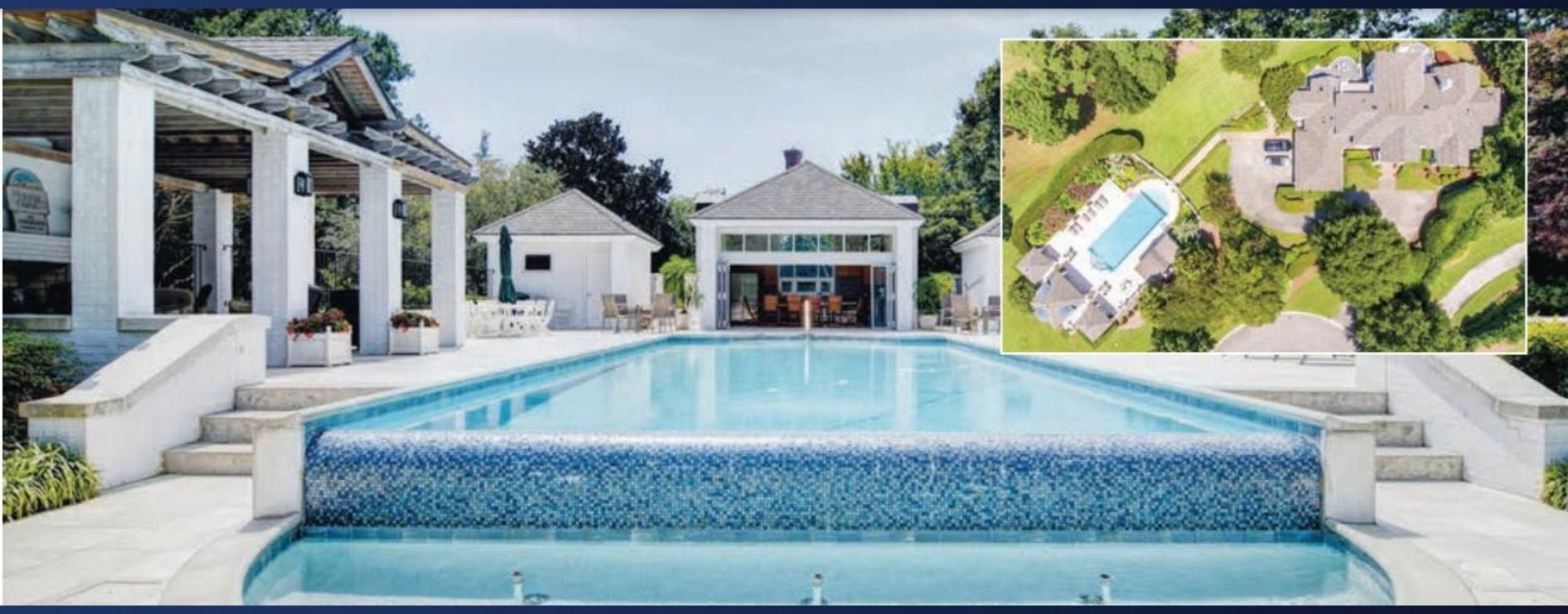
LEADING REAL ESTATE COMPANIES® of THE WORLD

www.vanceyoung.com

Over $1 Billion in Career Sales

Intracoastal REALTY CORPORATION

Experience the Exceptional



2041 Montrose Lane • Landfall • $1,950,000

Located on two lots comprising 1.4 acres overlooking Landfall's Jack Nicklaus designed marsh course with views of Howe Creek, this immaculate 5400 square feet features 4 bedrooms, 5 1/2 baths and includes first floor master with elegant, updated bath and his/her walk-in closets.

Intracoastal REALTY CORPORATION

Experience the Exceptional

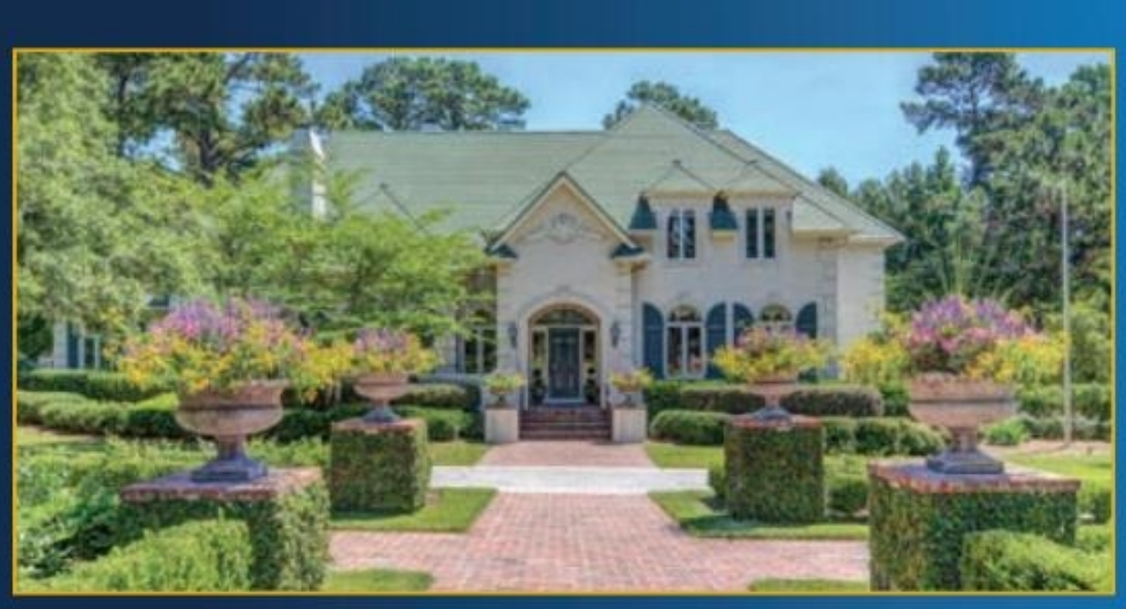
LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL®

6432 WESTPORT DRIVE
Westport | List Price: $2,895,000
Vance Young 910.232.8850

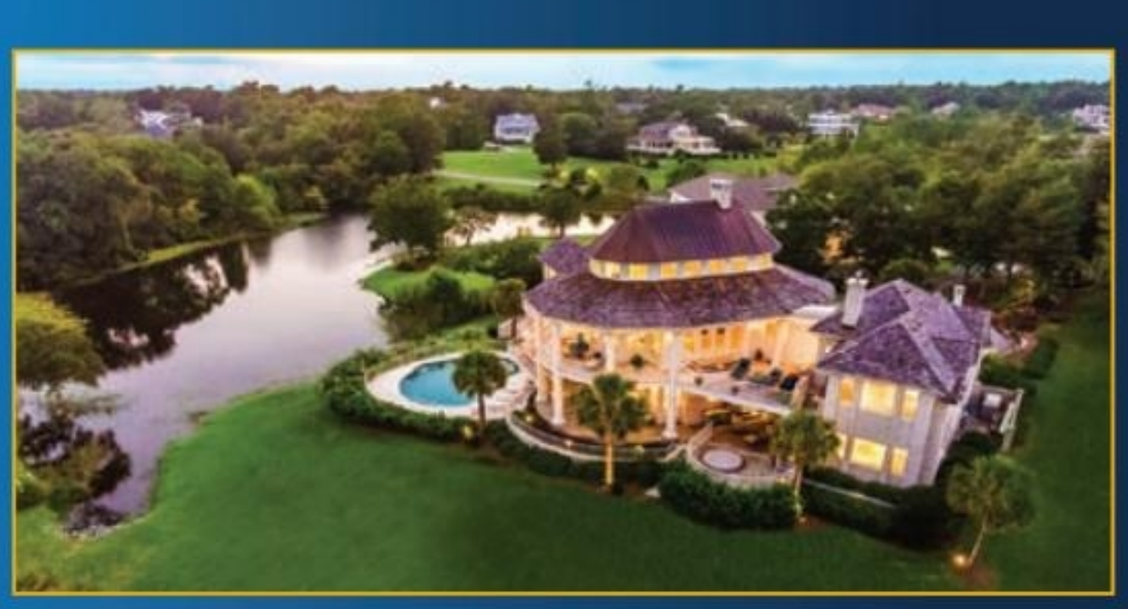
309 BRADLEY DRIVE
Wilmington | List Price: $2,800,000
Leslie Hales 910.508.8620 | Rainey Wallace 910.524.8794

1929 MIDDLE SOUND LOOP ROAD
Wilmington | List Price: $2,399,000
Harper Fraser 910.524.1859

7201 GRAY GABLES LANE
Gray Gables | List Price: $1,749,000
Jane Dodd 910.617.3208 | Jeff Hovis 910.512.2205



2044 MONTROSE LANE
Landfall | List Price: $2,650,000
Diane Thomas 910.520.0617



1121 PEMBROKE JONES DRIVE
Landfall | List Price: $5,000,000
Michelle Clark 910-367-9767

910.256.4503 | IntracoastalRealty.com

Intracoastal REALTY CORPORATION

Experience the Exceptional

LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL®

1100 PEMBROKE JONES DRIVE
Landfall | List Price: $4,750,000
Vance Young 910.232.8850

332 BEACH ROAD NORTH
Figure Eight Island | List Price: $2,999,000
Lee Crouch 910.512.4533

407 BRADLEY CREEK POINT ROAD
Bradley Creek | List Price: $4,950,000
Vance Young 910.232.8850

2601 NORTH LUMINA AVENUE
Shell Island Village | List Price: $2,379,000
Sarah Wright Hicks 910.470.7253

727 SOUTH LUMINA AVENUE
Wrightsville Beach | List Price: $2,999,000
Vance Young 910.232.8850

13 BAHAMA DRIVE
Wrightsville Beach | List Price: $3,000,000
Bobby Brandon 910.538.6261

910.256.4503 | IntracoastalRealty.com

theArtWorks™

Like the Nautilus, a Symbol of Expansion & Renewal,
theArtWorks™ Will Grow Logarithmically.

Shop Original Art!

Open:
Fridays: 10:00 - 6:00
Saturdays: 10:00 - 3:00

4th Friday Gallery Walk
April 27th, 2018
6:00 - 9:00

Janet Johnson

Elizabeth Desmond

Verna D'Alto

Jeanmarie

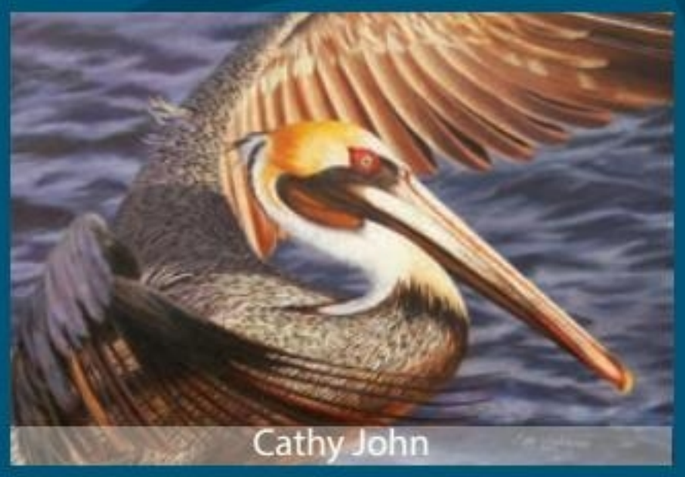
Emily Rae Art

Pat Pinter

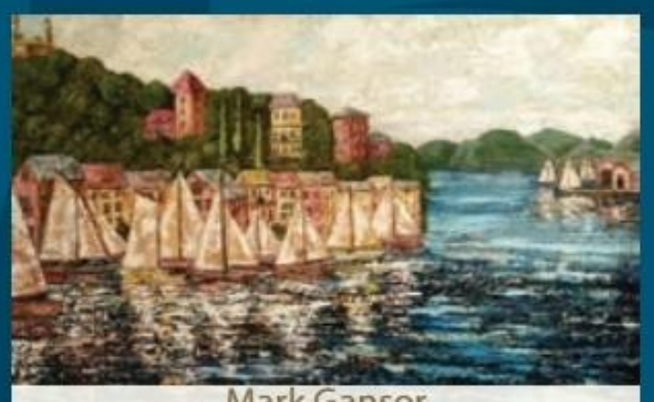
Elena Wright

Laura Kalina

Lauren Rogers


Cathy John

Barton Hatcher


Mark Gansor

Robert Anderson

Perry Smith
Performance & Lessons

Sarah Horak

Janet B. Sessoms

Charlie McGee

Sue Cunningham

Kirstin O'Malley

910.352.7077
www.theArtWorks.co

200 Willard Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

Just a Sample of theArtWorks™

PLAN YOUR NEXT

Adventure

Less than an hour from Wilmington, Bald Head Island's 14 miles of uncrowded beaches and outdoor activities galore make it an exceptional getaway for the entire family. Call or go online to start planning your adventure.

BALD HEAD ISLAND
NORTH CAROLINA

877-344-7360 | www.bhislandvacation.com | vacations@bhisland.com

The Other Half Sale!

For the ENTIRE month of April, Paysage items that are no longer in a set will be discounted as a single item price.

Save on items such as:

Lamps
Nightstands
Pillows
Pendants
Accessories
AND SO MUCH MORE!

PH
PAYSAGE HOME

home furnishings
and
interior design

1908 Eastwood Road,
Wilmington, NC 28403
www.paysage.com
910-256-6050

*Exclusions Apply.

Bobby Brandon Real Estate Team

Selling Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach since 1993

www.bobbybrandon.com

1900 Eastwood Road. Ste 38, Wilmington, NC 28403

Bobby Brandon
Going the Distance for You

Intracoastal
REALTY CORPORATION
Experience the Exceptional

13 Bahama Dr. • 3 Bed, 3.5 Bath
Sound front home with boat dock
Incredible views!
$3,000,000

821 Schloss St. Wrightsville Beach • 5 Bed, 4 Bath
Convenient sound and ocean access
Great rental history!
$1,375,000

1000 Creekside Ln. • 3/4 Bed, 3 Bath
Creek/marsh front home
$575,000

1505 W. Morning Dove Ct. • 3 Bed, 3.5 Bath
1 mile to Wrightsville Beach
$417,000

114 Stormy Petrel. Kure Beach • 3 Bed, 3 Bath
Only 4 homes back from the ocean
$334,500

108-#3 Turtle Cay • 3 Bed, 3 Bath
Open floor plan • River views
$258,500

4418 N. College Rd. • 3 Bed, 2 Bath
1600 sq/ft. • 30x30 shop plus storage shed
1+ acres. May be able to subdivide?
$235,000

242 Brighton Rd. • 3 Bed, 1.5 Bath
Renovated home • Cute as can be!
$162,000

2716 -Unit C S. 17th St. • 2 Bed, 2 Bath
Top floor condo
$93,000

Bobby Brandon (910) 538-6261
bobbyb@intracoastalrealty.com

Michelle Wheeles (910) 382-0611
mwheeles@intracoastalrealty.com

Pam Parrish (910) 262-1738
pparish@intracoastalrealty.com

Drew Mayer (910) 617-5336
dmayer@intracoastalrealty.com

Why is a team concept more beneficial to you?
YOU get the whole TEAM and 25 years of experience!

NHRMC Introduces

3D

Mammography

Because your peace of mind is important,
NHRMC is adopting 3D mammography as our standard of care. The new technology helps doctors find more invasive breast tumors and helps reduce the number of false positives.

Now available at five **NHRMC** imaging locations. **Because You Matter.**

Learn more at **NHRMC.org/3D-mammography**

New Hanover Regional Medical Center

Because You Matter

Salt
MAGAZINE

VOLUME 6, NO. 3

5725 Oleander Dr., Unit B-4
Wilmington, NC 28403
Editorial · 910.833.7159 | **Advertising** · 910.833.7158

David Woronoff, Publisher

Jim Dodson, Editor
jim@thepilot.com

Andie Stuart Rose, Art Director
andie@thepilot.com

William Irvine, Senior Editor
bill@saltmagazinenc.com

Lauren Coffey, Graphic Designer

Alyssa Rocherolle, Graphic Designer

CONTRIBUTORS

Ash Alder, Harry Blair, Susan Campbell, Wiley Cash, Clyde Edgerton, Jason Frye, Nan Graham, Virginia Holman, Mark Holmberg, Ross Howell Jr., Sara King, D. G. Martin, Jim Moriarty, Mary Novitsky, Dana Sachs, Stephen E. Smith, Astrid Stellanova, Bill Thompson

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Rick Ricozzi, Bill Ritenour,
Andrew Sherman, Mark Steelman

ADVERTISING SALES

Ginny Trigg, Advertising Director
910.691.8293 · ginny@saltmagazinenc.com

Elise Mullaney, Advertising Manager
910.409.5502 · elise@saltmagazinenc.com

Susanne Medlock, Advertising Representative
910.520.2020 · susanne@saltmagazinenc.com

Courtney Barden, Advertising Representative
910.262.1882 · courtney@saltmagazinenc.com

Morgan Garrett, Advertising Assistant
advertising@saltmagazinenc.com

Alyssa Rocherolle, Advertising Graphic Designer
910.693.2508 · alyssamagazines@gmail.com

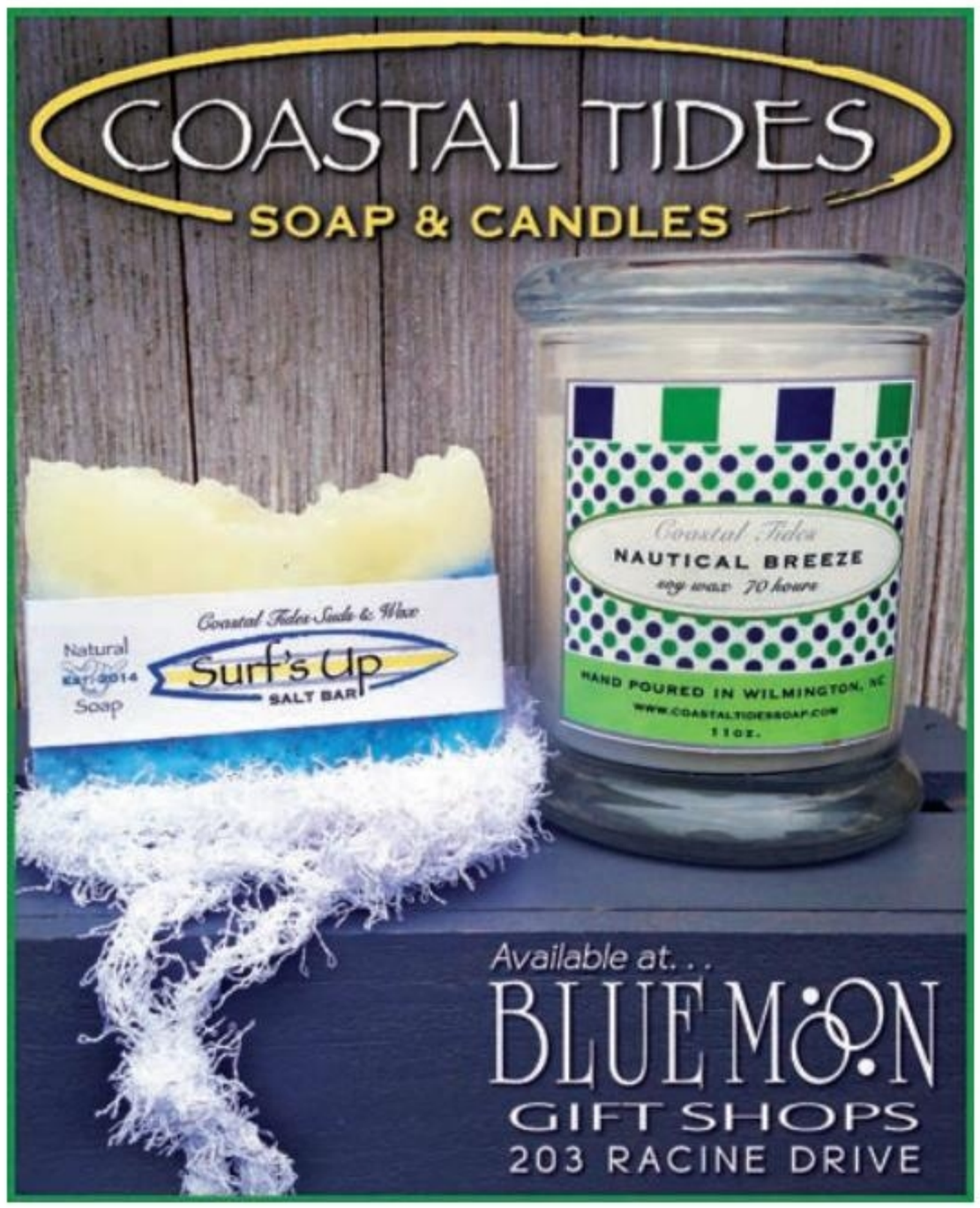
Darlene Stark, Circulation/Distribution Director
910.693.2488

Douglas Turner, Finance Director
910.693.2497

Subscribe today!
Salt
MAGAZINE
910.833.7159
$45 in state
$55 out of state

©Copyright 2018. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. Salt *Magazine is published by* The Pilot LLC

dune
JEWELRY
Beach Love
boutique
Handmade with Local
Wrightsville Beach Sand!
Available at
BLUE
MOON
GIFT SHOPS
203 RACINE DR


COASTAL TIDES
SOAP & CANDLES
Coastal Tides Suds & Wax
Natural
Soap
Surf's Up
SALT BAR
Coastal Tides
NAUTICAL BREEZE
soy wax 70 hours
HAND POURED IN WILMINGTON, NC
Available at. . .
BLUE MOON
GIFT SHOPS
203 RACINE DRIVE

Make it Simple...
from our freezer to your table!
Ladyfingers'
Signature
Chicken
Enchiladas
Ladyfingers
of Raleigh
available at
BLUE
MOON
GIFT SHOPS
203 Racine Drive
LADYFINGERS
GOURMET TO GO

MEET THE
ARTISTS!
SAT. APRIL 14TH
10AM - 5PM
203 RACINE DR. 910-799-5793
BLUE
MOON
GIFT SHOPS

April 2018

Features

41 Azalea Festival Writing Contest
Poetry by Hilary Batista & Katherine Neilsen

42 Spencer Compton Speaks
The 1st Earl of Wilmington finally has his say

44 Sleepers, Awake!
Story & Photograph by Virginia Holman
A hymn to a few of my favorite (spring) things

48 Our Blooming Mascot
By Barbara J. Sullivan
An ode to Cape Fear azaleas

50 A Family Affair
By William Irvine
Three generations of a busy family turned to designer Liz Carroll to transform their house on Figure 8 Island into a serene retreat that's easy to share

58 Woodrow Was Here
By William Irvine
A visit to an elegant Greek Revival house on Front Street, where the former president was a regular houseguest

67 Almanac
By Ash Alder

PHOTOGRAPH THIS PAGE BY RICK RICOZZI

Departments

15 Simple Life
By Jim Dodson

20 SaltWorks

23 Omnivorous Reader
By D.G. Martin

27 Lunch With a Friend
By Dana Sachs

33 In the Spirit
By Tony Cross

37 True South
By Susan S. Kelly

39 Birdwatch
By Susan Campbell

69 Calendar

75 Port City People

79 Accidental Astrologer
By Astrid Stellanova

80 Accidental Southerner
By Nan Graham

Alexander Koonce

910•509•1949 | cell: 910•233•7225 | 800•533•1840
www.alexanderkoonce.com

Intracoastal Realty Corporation
Experience the Exceptional

TOP PRODUCER
Intracoastal Realty

8 Latimer Street — *Wrightsville Beach*

Classic investment property in the heart of Wrightsville Beach with views of the sound. This vintage cottage offers 2 units, (each with 2 bedrooms and 1 bath), off-street parking, and about 100 ft. in either direction to beach access or sound access. Both units have great rental history. Keep the top unit for your island getaway and just rent out the bottom unit to help cover your expenses. **$599,950**

Water & Marsh Front Lots — *Marsh Oaks*

Isn't it time to love where you live? Enjoy a privileged view of wide open spaces and nature in your backyard. Call today for the best selection of prime, water and marsh-front lots with exceptional new pricing! Located in the very sought after neighborhood of Marsh Oaks! Gorgeous community with award winning amenities that includes clubhouse, pool, tennis courts, playground and common areas. Every sunset will remind you of how much you love your best investment. Lot sizes from half of an acre all the way up to an one and a half acres! **Homesites from $250,000 - $435,000, call for details.**

Salt Grass Marsh Oaks

Salt Grass at Marsh Oaks

MUNGO HOMES

516 Belhaven Drive
4 bedrooms | 3 baths | 2,199 sq ft
$344,664

508 Belhaven Drive
4 bedrooms | 2.5 baths | 2,268 sq ft
$353,586

Under Contract

655 Belhaven Drive
3 bedrooms | 2.5 baths | 2,871 sq ft
$393,274

517 Belhaven Drive
3 bedrooms | 2.5 baths | 2,367 sq ft
$350,742

Under Contract

521 Belhaven Drive
4 bedrooms | 3.5 baths | 2,877 sq ft
$388,967

607 Belhaven Drive
4 bedrooms | 3.5 baths | 2,782 sq ft
$383,147

EXPECT ROYAL TREATMENT
www.alexanderkoonce.com

1900 Eastwood Road • Suite 38 Lumina Station • Wilmington, NC 28403
zander@alexanderkoonce.com

We make the extra mile *feel like*

2530 Royal Palm Lane

Wilmington

$1,290,000

5 BEDROOMS / 4 FULL BATHS / 1 HALF BATH
4,536 SQFT.

Beautiful creekfront custom home with gourmet kitchen, elevator, 3 car garage plus extra garage bay for golf cart/boat

2131 Gloucester Place

Wilmington

$529,300

3 BEDROOMS / 3 FULL BATHS / 2 HALF BATHS
3,859 SQFT.

Beautifully renovated contemporary home with private Master Quarters and additional mother-in-law suite

158 Driftwood Court

Wrightsville Beach - Channel Walk

$450,000

3 BEDROOMS / 2 FULL BATHS
1,345 SQFT.

Bright, airy and move-in ready with "peek-a-boo" water views within walking distance of everything you need

Let the *Michelle Clark Team* help you discover your perfect neighborhood.

You and your home are in the best possible hands when you choose the Michelle Clark Team. Whether you're buying or selling a house, our staff has the local and industry knowledge to find the best location for you and your loved ones.

Michelle Clark | Realtor® / Broker | ALHS, SFR, SRES

MICHELLE CLARK
A name you can lean on

Intracoastal REALTY CORPORATION
Experience the Exceptional

REALTOR

Contact our agency today and make ***a friend for life.***

910.367.9767 | MCLARK@INTRACOASTALREALTY.COM | *michelleclarkteam.com*

"Ask Garden Guru"

Advice stinks – but only when unsolicited

By Jim Dodson

Spring is here. Garden Guru will now take your important gardening questions.

Dear Garden Guru,

I'm new to gardening this year and eager to learn all I can in a hurry. What would you suggest as a starting point? A bit worryingly, I hear hobby gardening can be kind of expensive. Is that true?

Signed,

A Frugal Beginner from Biscoe

Dear Frugal,

Like keeping a mistress or owning a vintage British sports car, gardening is not for the faint of heart or weak of wallet. The proper handcrafted English tools, the glamorous plant seminars, the costly trips abroad simply to study the Great Gardens of the World – well, it all adds up so quickly. Pretty soon you'll be dropping the mortgage money on rare fruit trees at the garden center, hopelessly addicted to spring catalogs (a somewhat philistine friend refers to these as "porn for gardeners") or blowing through the kids' college fund to turn your backyard into a Southern Gardens of Versailles. GG suggests you start small to determine if your interest is genuine or just a passing fancy, maybe with an inoffensive African violet in your kitchen window?

Dear Garden Guru,

A few years ago, following a dream golf vacation to New Zealand, my hubby Ralph and I met an intriguing couple, who shared their love of golf and gardening. Ralph fell hard for the concept of "natural gardening" they practiced and, in a nutshell, has taken it up with gusto. The guiding tenet of the NG movement, as I understand it, is for proponents to become "one with nature." In his effort to get "closer to the source," as Ralph puts it, he has quit playing golf with his buddies, refers to himself as "The Green Man," and has taken to gardening fully in the nude save for a ratty old golf cap he wears on rainy days. We're both grandparents in our mid 60s and happen to reside in a classy, gated golf community where everyone is beginning to avoid us at parties. This is so embarrassing. My golf handicap is in tatters. Any suggestions?

Signed,

Worried (and still fully clothed) Wilma in Wilmington

Dear Worried Wilma,

Ralph's unnatural attraction to the natural world simply reflects the addictive dangers of gardening. Clearly he's gone "native" on you. Have you considered divorcing him and marrying one of his golf buddies? It could make dinner at the club so much nicer.

Dear Garden Guru,

My wife Brenda is an award-winning flower gardener. I'm a serious vegetable grower who has won numerous ribbons at our county fair. Every March we have

ILLUSTRATION BY ROMEY PETITE

RECLAIM YOUR HEALTH.
REGAIN YOUR LIFESTYLE.
RECONNECT TO WHAT MATTERS.
Share the moments that make you feel alive.
Carolina Arthritis Associates is Eastern North Carolina's most experienced and trusted arthritis and osteoporosis center.
We're building a community where your health is our priority. Make an appointment and get started on the path to enjoying the best years of your life.
VISIT US AT FACEBOOK.COM/CAROLINAARTHRITIS
Carolina Arthritis
1710 SOUTH 17TH STREET, WILMINGTON, NC 28401 | 910.762.1182 | CAROLINAARTHRITIS.COM
JOHN L. HARSHBARGER, MD • DAVID W. PUETT, MD • MARK D. HARRIS, MD
GREGORY C. BORSTAD, MD • DANIEL L. DELO, MD • WENDY W. SIMMONS, PA

the same argument over space allocation in the raised beds of our rather smallish condominium terrace. Her zinnias are always encroaching on my heirloom snap beans, and don't get me started on the times she's heartlessly flattened my tender artisan squash plants trying to prune her Sugar Moon hybrid teas. A reproachful war of silence has developed between us. We rarely speak between my first decent tomato crop and her final lace cap hydrangea bloom in late summer. Is this any way to grow a garden or keep a marriage?

A Brooding Veggie Dude in Durham

Dear Veggie Dude,

Botanically speaking, you're a classic mixed marriage, a tale as old as Adam and Eve and their famous domestic squabble over the proper use of fig leaves. (Are they good in a stew or simply wearable?) Have you pondered getting a larger terrace or, even better, finding separate garden plots in adjoining counties? You might try moseying down to Pittsboro to find a patch where your Tuscan zucchini can roam free and easy. The happiest gardening couples, Garden Guru finds, are those who insist on separate bathrooms and growing spaces where cosmos and cucumbers never meet.

Dear Garden Guru,

I recently accompanied my son's fourth grade class on a field trip to the White House and was pleased to see gorgeous camellias blooming in the East Room – until, to my horror, I discovered they were completely FAKE! A week or so later, I attended my great aunt Sissy's funeral in Burgaw only to discover that the lovely spray of Easter lilies adorning her coffin were – you guessed it – FAKE! Honestly, how do you feel about FAKE flowers at important public events? I feel like our president and the dearly departed deserve SO much better than FAKE flowers!!! Don't you agree?

Signed,

Still Fuming in Fountain

Dear Fuming,

Sadly, we live in an age where many things are FAKE – news from the internet, bridges to nowhere and half the hairpieces in Congress. For all I know yours could be a FAKE letter, too. But assuming it isn't, Dear Lady, one suspects neither your grade-schooler nor your expired great auntie gives a FAKE fig about the flowers in the East Room or silk lilies on her goodbye box. By the way, gardening is all about "faking" out Mother Nature – bending her wilder inclinations to your domestic desires. As a rule, a little fakery never hurts unless elected to Congress or performing a Super Bowl halftime show.

MAKE YOUR CUSTOM HOME **UNIQUELY YOURS**

Explore our two fully-furnished model homes and discover the innovative use of space, the high-quality materials, and the trending design we use in every home we build. Browse our Design Studio for inspiration options for your new custom home.

Paul Schumacher
SCHUMACHER HOMES

10 Edgewood Ln. NE, Winnabow, NC 28479
schumacherhomes.com • 877-267-3482

Your inspiration has a home.

RENAISSANCE
DENTAL STUDIO

#RenaissanceExperience
COME FOR YOUR DENTAL NEEDS...
STAY FOR HOW WE'LL MAKE YOU FEEL

Sarah E. Pless, DDS
7205 Wrightsville Ave | Suite 105
Under Grand View Luxury Apartments
910.726.9888 | info@PlessDDS.com
www.PlessDDS.com

A WILMINGTON CLASSIC
REIMAGINED

The Hilton tradition continues with the new Hotel Ballast, Tapestry Collection by Hilton, a boutique hotel perfectly located for both business and pleasure in the heart of Wilmington on the Cape Fear River.

272 FULLY RENOVATED GUEST ROOMS

TWO ON-SITE RESTAURANTS:
BOARD & BARREL COASTAL KITCHEN
RUTH'S CHRIS STEAKHOUSE

COFFEE BAR SERVING LOCAL BREWS & GRAB-AND-GO FARE

RIVERFRONT POOL DECK & LOUNGE

FITNESS CENTER

20,000 SQ. FT. OF MEETING SPACE INCLUDING THE COVETED RIVERVIEW GRAND BALLROOM

COMPLIMENTARY AIRPORT SHUTTLE

HOTELBALLAST.COM

301 North Water Street, Wilmington, NC 28401
910.763.5900 | Sales@HotelBallast.com

Let us focus on your full recovery...
...so you can focus on what matters to you.
BenchMark
PHYSICAL THERAPY
Grande Dunes (843) 945-1815 • Leland (910) 399-4039 • Southport (910) 253-9964
North Myrtle Beach (843) 427-7132 • Wilmington–Myrtle Grove (910) 790-1976
Ocean Isle Beach (910) 579-3900 • Wilmington–Ogden Marketplace coming soon!

Dear Garden Guru,

Why do I keep managing to kill every fragile Bonsai plant I ever buy? I water them religiously every morning. Any interesting thoughts?

Signed,

Herbicidal in Ahoskie

Dear Herbicidal,

GG has lots of interesting thoughts. But none he would care to share with you. Two possibilities occur, however. A) Always read up on proper maintenance, for every Bonsai plant has unique characteristics and needs, and/or B) You're indeed an herbicidal maniac who has no business gardening.

Dear Garden Guru,

Remember the lady who found the face of Jesus in a taco and so went on TV? Well, my husband Bobby Ray has an incredible gardening talent. He grows fruit and leafy greens that look amazingly like all kinds of famous Americans! I can show you a Vidalia onion, for instance, that looks uncannily like the late Yul Brynner, and a head of curly endive that could be little Shirley Temple's twin sister! (See enclosed Polaroids.) My question is, given America's dual love of gardening and celebrities, do you think there might be a profitable business in growing celebrity look-alike fruit and veggies? I phoned up America's Got Talent *but they thought I might be some garden-variety crackpot. Whom should I contact next?*

Signed, Betty from Browns Summit

P.S. Bobby Ray won't reveal his growing secret but I think it may have something to do with the load of rhino poo he obtained from the state zoo last year. Also, I am not a crackpot!

Dear Betty,

Gardening is full of great surprises. A few years back, I grew a dozen Yukon Gold potatoes that looked uncannily like the Founding Fathers. They were a big hit at our cookout on Independence Day. The truth is, celebrity fruit and vegetables are far more commonplace than you might think. Just the other day at Harris Teeter I saw a head of organic cauliflower that was a dead ringer for Justin Timberlake. That being said, there's also rumor that HGTV plans to replace decamped rehab goddess Joanna Gaines with a new show on — wait for it — celebrity fruits and veggies! So they may have some interest in Bobby Ray's talents. Failing that, the Garden Guru thinks a much surer bet is his secret rhino poo. Any chance I can get a load of that for my spring garden?

Contact Editor Jim Dodson at jim@thepilot.com.

TIFFANYS
BEACH PROPERTIES
BALD HEAD ISLAND, NC

For seventeen years, I've been helping guests find the perfect vacation home on Bald Head Island. As a resident and mother of two, I've had the good fortune over the years of being able to enjoy all the island has to offer and share that with you. Summer after summer, my girls have collected enough shells to ring the island, counted enough stars to make a thousand wishes and sold enough cups of lemonade to quench the thirst of many a parched beach-goer. You too will make memories on Bald Head Island to take home and cherish forever. If you are searching for the perfect vacation home - to rent or buy, let us help you.

Tiffany Williams, Broker-In-Charge
tiffany@tiffanysbeachproperties.com
www.tiffanysbeachproperties.com
910.457.0544

SaltWorks

71st Annual North Carolina Azalea Festival

North Carolina's largest festival of its kind and Wilmington's premier community celebration is here. The Azalea Festival is a Wilmington institution, and with more than 50 events, this year's festival promises to be a week full of beauty, entertainment and fun. Highlights include: Juried Art Show and Sale (April 7-15); Youth Art Contest (April 11-15); High School Writing Contest (April 11-15); Billy Currington Concert with Drake White and Kenton Bryant (April 13); Airlie Luncheon Garden Party (April 13); 38 Special with Tuesdays Gone (April 13); Patron's Party Gala (April 14); 71st Azalea Festival Parade (April 14); Ludacris with Childish Major (April 14); Fireworks (April 14). For the full list of events and more information: ncazaleafestival.org.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MAYA

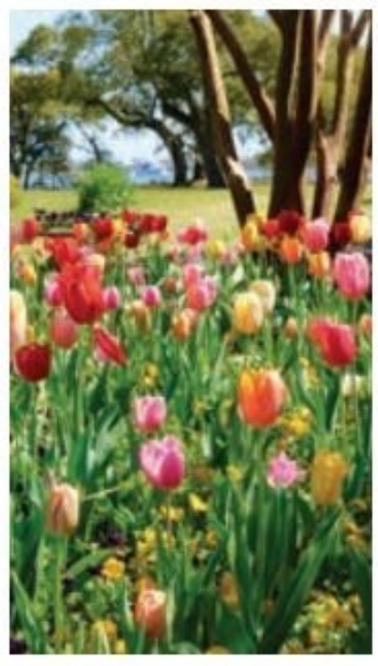
Mandolin Spring

Mandolin Orange's Southern sound is perfect for a spring evening at Greenfield Lake Amphitheater. From their early performing days in Chapel Hill, the band has received international attention for their Americana music and powerful and poignant songwriting. They are a versatile duo: In addition to vocals, Emily Frantz plays the guitar and violin; Andrew Marlin plays the banjo, mandolin and guitar. Mandolin Orange has toured across the United States and Europe, with appearances at major music festivals like Austin City Limits, South-by-Southwest, Merlefest, Newport Folk Festival and more. Tickets: $25-30. April 29, 6 p.m. Greenfield Lake Amphitheater, 1941 Amphitheater Drive, Wilmington. For more information: (910) 332-0983 or mandolinorange.com.

Tours of Historic Houses…

From quaint cottages to elegant mansions, Wilmington is a treasure trove of important historic houses. The Historic Wilmington Foundation has saved more than 200 properties from destruction since its founding in 1966. The Azalea Festival Home Tour is a great way to benefit the foundation and explore several historic houses throughout town. Eleven properties will be open for exploration, and docents will be available at each location to share highlights and history. A ribbon-cutting ceremony with dignitaries and free ice cream at the Daniel-Poisson House at 315 S. Front Street will kick off the tour. Proceeds benefit the Historic Wilmington Foundation, whose mission is to protect and preserve the historic resources of Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear region. April 14-15. Tickets: $30 in advance; $35 starting on Saturday of the Azalea Festival. For more information and to purchase tickets: historicwilmington.org.

…and Gardens



The Azalea Festival Garden Tour is one of the longest-running and most popular garden tours in the South and is a perfect way to enjoy Southern hospitality and the vibrant colors of spring. A ribbon-cutting ceremony at Greenfield Park will start the tour with live music and the Azalea Festival Court, and a reception with punch and homemade cookies. This year's tour is themed "Bloomin' Beautiful!" and features 11 gardens. Dozens of local artists will be at work in the gardens throughout the weekend during the third annual Plein Air Paint Out, and their work will be on offer at the Wet Paint Sale on Sunday, April 15, at the Cape Fear Museum. Profits from the tour are reinvested in the community as beautification and horticultural grants within New Hanover County, scholarships at UNCW and Cape Fear Community College, and conservation efforts on Battery Island. April 13-15. Tickets: $25. For more information: capefeargardenclub.org.

Springtime at Poplar Grove

Mark the beginning of spring at Poplar Grove's 26th annual Herb and Plant Fair, an event featuring some of North Carolina's best garden vendors and local artisans and crafters. The Poplar Grove grounds will be filled with a wonderful selection of local plants including herbs, perennials, annuals, hanging baskets, shrubs, vegetable starts and houseplants. There will also be garden art and accessories, herbal products, artisan crafts and local food. Artist and musician Mark Herbert will be playing live music, and volunteers will lead classes and nature trail walks. Admission: $5 (free for kids under 12). April 7-8. Poplar Grove Plantation, 10200 Highway 17 N, Wilmington. For more information: (910) 686-9518 or poplargrove.org.

Rosanne Cash with John Leventhal

Few names mean as much to American country music as the Carters and the Cashes, considered by many the royal family of Nashville. Country music icon Johnny Cash's oldest daughter, Rosanne Cash, is a music star in her own right, a Grammy Award-winning singer and songwriter who blends country, pop, blues, folk, rock and Americana to create a unique sound. She will perform with her collaborator and husband, John Leventhal, a five-time Grammy Award-winning musician and producer. Not to be missed. Tickets: $49-$69. April 5, 7:30 p.m. Thalian Hall, 310 Chestnut St., Wilmington. For more information: (910) 632-2285 or thalianhall.org.

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center is one of the 11 ensembles that comprise Lincoln Center for Performing Arts, the largest performing arts center in the world. It represents the highest quality of chamber music and performs both during its season at Lincoln Center in New York and on national tours. The Chamber Music Society has created programs to bring the art of chamber music to listeners from a wide range of backgrounds with the hope to engage new audiences. This program features works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Carl Maria von Weber and Johannes Brahms. Together, these pieces provide an image of the evolution of German classicism in music. Tickets: $25-$75. April 24, 7:30 p.m. UNCW Kenan Auditorium, Wilmington. For more information: (910) 962-2500 or www.uncw.edu/arts.

Master Gardener Plant Sale

With spring in full swing, there is no better time to spruce up your garden and no one better to help you than the master gardeners at the New Hanover County Arboretum. The annual New Hanover County Arboretum plant sale will have a huge selection of trees, shrubs, ornamental plants, annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables, azaleas, rose bushes, Japanese maples and more. Trained master gardeners will be available to help any budding gardeners with advice on planting and long-term care. Admission is free. April 19-22. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Thursday–Saturday); 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. (Sunday). New Hanover County Arboretum, 6206 Oleander Drive, Wilmington. For more information: (910) 798-7660 or arboretum.nhcgov.com.

PREMIER HOMES

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Commitment to Excellence

SEARCHING FOR THE PERFECT RETIREMENT LIVING HOME?

RETIREMENT SMART *Living*

Designer Kitchens & Baths | Low Maintenance | Brick Exteriors | Open Floor Plans
Low Cost of Living | Lawn Care Provided | Over 25 Retirement Smart Living Features

WE HAVE OVER **20 RETIREMENT SMART HOME PLANS** TO CHOOSE FROM, AVAILABLE AT **3 AMAZING COMMUNITIES:**

THE HOME PLACE

(910) 799-6830

TheHomePlaceNC.com

THE VILLAGE AT MOTT'S LANDING

(910) 799-6830

PremierHomesAtMottsLanding.com

RIVER BLUFFS EST. 2013

(910) 623-5015

RiverBluffsLiving.com

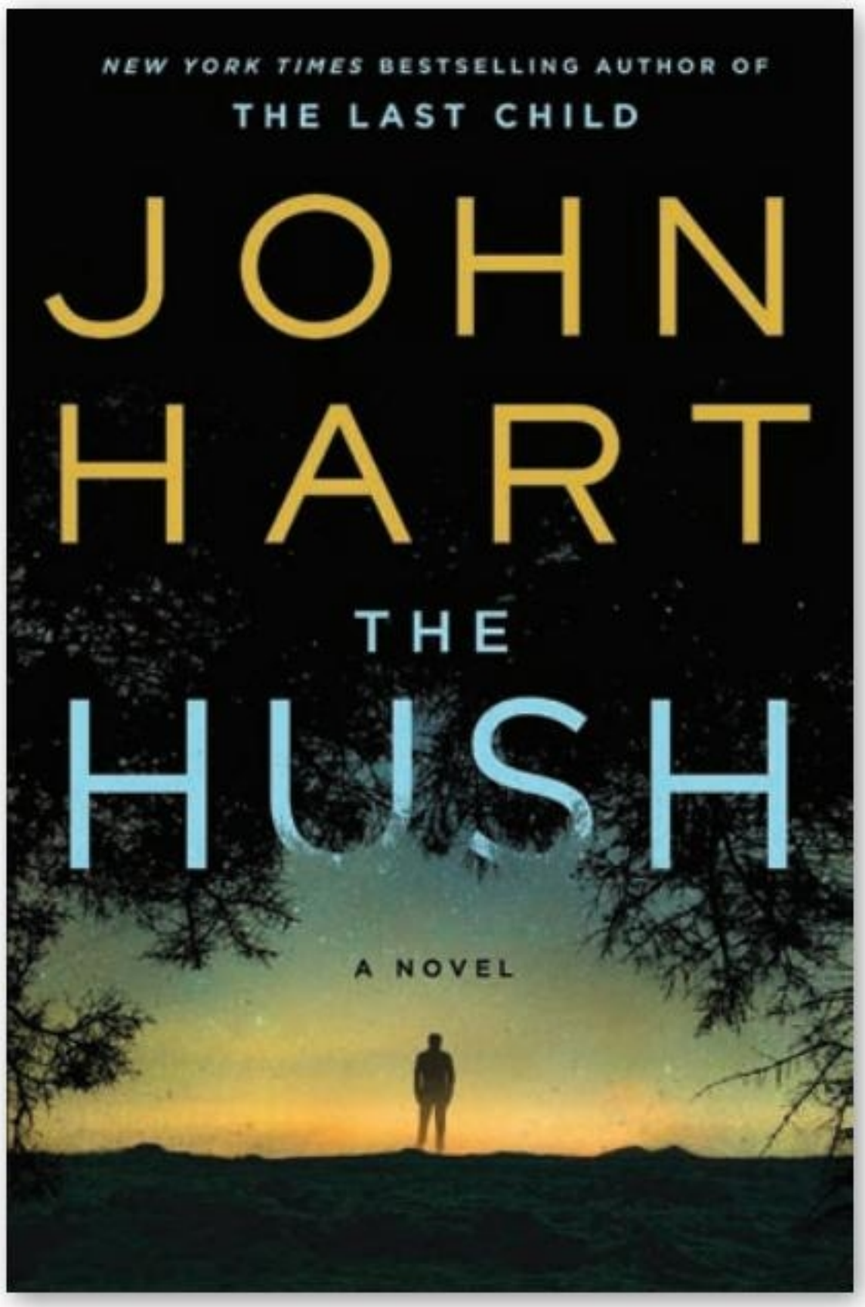
Priced from **$350,000** *to* **$550,000**

COMPLETE WITH THE HOMESITE OF YOUR CHOICE.

OVER 30 YEARS OF KNOWING THE NEEDS OF TODAY'S ACTIVE ADULTS

Mysteries of the Swamp

A supernatural risk for John Hart



By D.G. Martin

John Hart, who grew up in Salisbury, is the author of five *New York Times* best-sellers, *The King of Lies* (2006), *Down River* (2007), *The Last Child* (2009), *Iron House* (2011) and *Redemption Road* (2016).

Both *The King of Lies* and *Down River* won Edgar Awards, making Hart the only author to win this prestigious award for consecutive novels. He has a bag full of other honors, including the Barry Award, the Southern Independent Bookseller's Award for Fiction, the Ian Fleming Steel Dagger Award, the Southern Book Prize, and the North Carolina Award for Literature.

Hart declares his favorite of all these successes is the *The Last Child*. So it should come as no surprise that his latest, *The Hush*, is a sequel to that book.

Readers of *The Last Child* met Johnny Merriman as a 13-year-old, followed his search for his missing sister and his traumatic childhood, and came to know his troubled friend Jack. In *The Hush*, as Hart explained to me recently, Johnny "is living alone in the wilds of this swampy area called the Hush, which is an abbreviation for Hush Arbor, an area of 6,000 acres of rough, mostly swampland. Johnny is the owner. It is the remnant of a 40,000-acre tract that his family owned in the 1800s.

"He is withdrawn from society and lives in the swamp, by himself. His only connection to humanity really is his buddy Jack, from *The Last Child*. Jack is now a young attorney in town in his first week in practice when the book opens. It's what he's always wanted to do, to take control of his tumultuous life and get that kind of logic and reason, wrap his hands around that and live by those standards.

"But it becomes very difficult for him because the more time he spends with Johnny in the Hush, the more he begins to fear that things are not as they should be. There are mysterious things afoot in the swamp, terrifying things, dangerous things that Johnny is unwilling to talk about.

"Jack pushes, Johnny is recalcitrant, so part of the tension in the story is what grows between these two best friends as Johnny clearly is guarding some sort of secret that terrifies his best friend, and he flat out refuses to discuss it. That's a big part of the book, what's going on in the Hush."

Hart introduces existence of the supernatural powers in the Hush gently. After a terrible fall from a rocky cliff on the property, Johnny is cut, bruised and bloody. Back in town for a quick visit, Johnny allows his stepfather, Clyde, to bind up these serious wounds, and then hurries to leave and go back to the Hush.

Clyde says, "You want to go, I know. I can see that, too. It's always Hush Arbor, always the land. Just tell me one thing before you leave. Help me understand. Why do you love it so much?"

Hart writes, "He meant the silence and the swamp, the lonely hills and endless trees. On the surface it was a simple question, but Johnny's past had branded him in a way few could ignore: the things he'd believed and leaned upon, the way he'd searched so long for his sister. If Johnny spoke now, of magic, they'd think him confused or insane or trapped, somehow, in the delusions of a difficult past. Without living it, no one could grasp the truth of Hush Arbor. Johnny wouldn't want them to if they could."

But some part of that magic is revealed to Jack when he visits Johnny in the Hush a few days later. Although Clyde had described Johnny's horrible wounds, they were not apparent to Jack. Johnny "was shirtless and still and flawless. There wasn't a mark on him."

The reader who might have expected the usual John Hart thriller is on alert. Magic and the supernatural are going to play a big role in this saga.

Unraveling and understanding the source and the reasons for this magical power on the land provide the spine on which Hart builds this book.

But as the book begins, Johnny faces another serious challenge, a non-magical one. His title to his land is being challenged by a member of an African-American family who lived on the land for many years and whose claim is based on a deed from 1853. Johnny's legal claim is sound, but he used all his money to pay prior legal fees. Now, although he owns thousands of acres of land, cash-wise he is broke.

Guaranteed Rate welcomes Suzanne Neblett!

guaranteed Rate®

The Home Purchase Experts®

Better communication makes all the difference

Text, call or email – however you like to stay in touch, we'll make sure you're never in the dark.

- **Loan Status Monitor** – keeps you in the loop with real-time updates
- **A team of dedicated experts** – on call to help with every step of the loan
- **95% customer satisfaction*** – a proven track record of exceeding expectations

*95% Customer Satisfaction: Data Source: Guaranteed Rate's Client Satisfaction Surveys (Averaged 2007-2017)

Contact me to get started on your home loan today!

Suzanne Neblett

Branch Manager / VP of Mortgage Lending

Let's get started

C: (910) 795-6411

O: (910) 208-9035

Rate.com/suzanneneblett

suzanne.neblett@rate.com

7205 Wrightsville Ave. Suite 110 • Wilmington, NC 28403

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER NMLS ID: 619652; NC - I-179519 • NMLS ID #2611 (Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org) • NC - Lic #L-109803

So he wants his friend, the brand-new attorney Jack, to represent him.

He tries to persuade Jack to fight his legal battles. But Jack's law firm forbids him from taking on Johnny as a client. Instead, the firm hopes to represent a wealthy out-of-town money manager and hunter who wants to force Johnny to sell his land, or failing that, find another way to acquire it. Why? The hunting in and near the Hush is dangerous, exciting, and promises the possibility of extraordinary game. When that man is mysteriously killed while hunting in the Hush, Johnny becomes a prime murder suspect. Meanwhile, some members of the African-American family that lived on the land show magical powers, especially while they are in the Hush. Traumatic events in 1853 involving Johnny's slave-owning ancestors and those of the African-American enslaved family still cause trouble on the land.

Hart's imaginative resolution of these troubles brings the book to a powerful and violent conclusion.

But there is a risk here for Hart. His prior books have, with only one minor exception, held to the standard rules for thriller writers. Those rules call for the mysteries to be solved without the aid of magic or the supernatural.

Hart is betting that the richness of his characters, his compelling storytelling, and the story's supernatural landscape will hold his thriller fans despite breaking his old rules. Taking this risk, he hopes, will expand his appeal and share his storytelling talent with an even wider audience.

Taking risks, even those with high stakes, is not a new activity for Hart.

In fact, he seems to thrive on risk. For instance, he gave up his job as a stockbroker about 15 years ago to complete his first novel. That risk-taking paid off when *The King of Lies* became a best-seller in 2006.

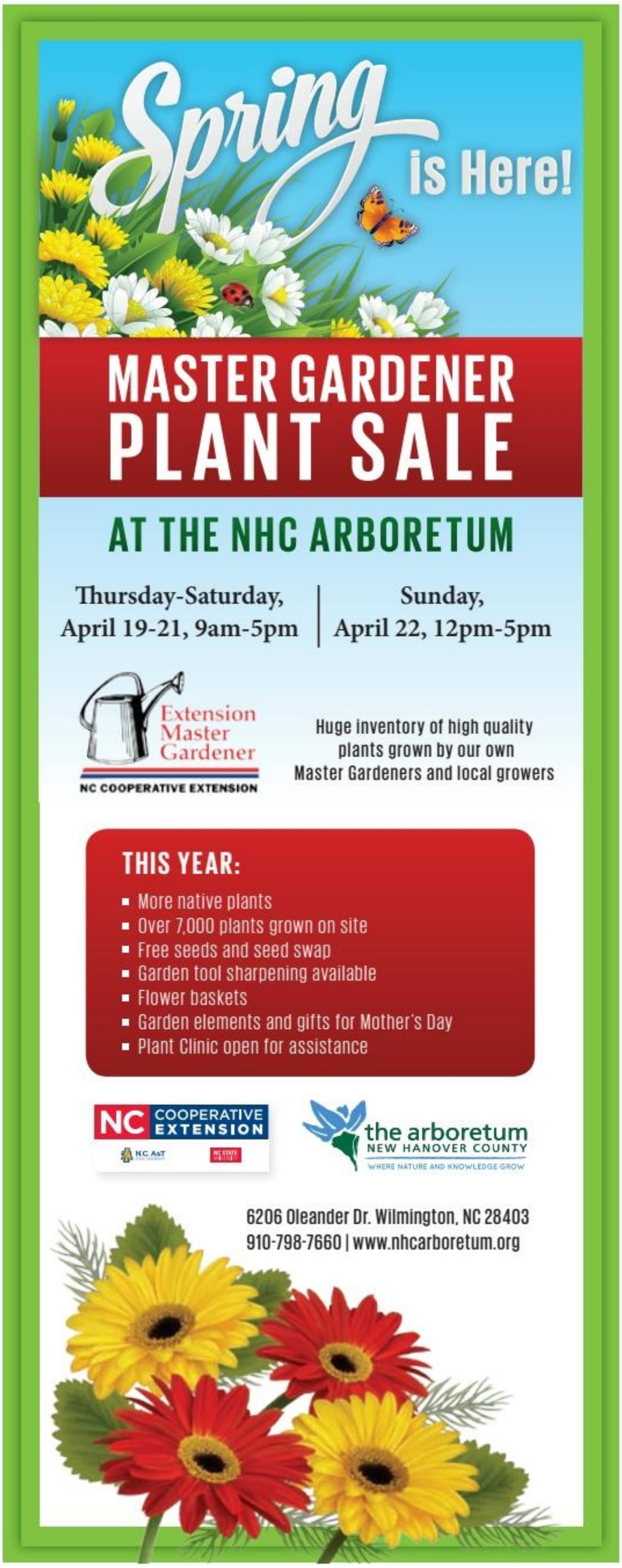
Then Hart, after a string of three more successful books, risked upsetting his working routine by moving with his wife and two young children from Greensboro to Charlottesville, Virginia. Although the move disrupted his writing program for several years, it finally led to *Redemption Road*, which became a critical and commercial success. His completion of *The Hush* shows that Hart is fully back on his game.

Now, will the risk of making the supernatural an integral part of his work pay off for him?

Nothing is for sure.

However, the complex and rich stories in *The Hush* and the book's supernatural but satisfying conclusion suggest that he is again on the right track.

D.G. Martin hosts North Carolina Bookwatch, *which airs Sundays at noon and Thursdays at 5 p.m. on UNC-TV.*


Spring is Here!
MASTER GARDENER
PLANT SALE
AT THE NHC ARBORETUM
Thursday-Saturday,
April 19-21, 9am-5pm
Sunday,
April 22, 12pm-5pm
Extension Master Gardener
NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Huge inventory of high quality plants grown by our own Master Gardeners and local growers
THIS YEAR:
More native plants
Over 7,000 plants grown on site
Free seeds and seed swap
Garden tool sharpening available
Flower baskets
Garden elements and gifts for Mother's Day
Plant Clinic open for assistance
NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
the arboretum
NEW HANOVER COUNTY
WHERE NATURE AND KNOWLEDGE GROW
6206 Oleander Dr. Wilmington, NC 28403
910-798-7660 | www.nhcarboretum.org

uncw
presents
CMS
Chamber Music Society
of Lincoln Center
APR. 24, 2018 | 7:30 p.m.
KENAN AUDITORIUM
TICKETS $25 • $50 • $75
This program strings together three seminal works from the chamber music repertoire that together provide a snapshot of the evolution of classicism in music by three of its greatest German exponents: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Carl Maria von Weber, and Johannes Brahms.
UNCW
For tickets call 910.962.3500
or visit www.uncw.edu/presents
Accommodations for disabilities may be requested by calling 910.962.3500 at least 3 days prior to the event. UNCW is an EEO/AA institution.

Sew Perfect

Veteran film seamstress Mache Mitchem's remarkable career

By Dana Sachs

Not long ago, Mache Mitchem had a conversation about retirement with one of her colleagues. "Mache," the woman said, "I need you to keep working for three more years."

Mache and I are having lunch at Famous Toastery on Wrightsville Avenue and, as Mache recounts the story, her eyes — think of a powdery blue velvet — start to sparkle. "I'd be 90," she whispers.

If you love movies, you've probably seen Mache's creations. As a seamstress specializing in upholstery and draperies, Mache worked on her first films in the 1980s when Dino De Laurentiis arrived in Wilmington and built the studio now called Screen Gems. She covered seven sofas and 15 chairs and made "many, many" velvet curtains for the 2013 blockbuster *Iron Man 3*. She worked on *Cold Mountain* and *The Notebook*. For the recent hit *The Greatest Showman*, Mache sewed the lace curtains that decorate P.T. Barnum's lavish home. Mache tells me that each box of curtains weighed around 50 pounds, but they end up as little more than a flash in the background of the movie.

Mache says that it doesn't necessarily matter if the audience sees her handiwork or not. A film crew tries to create an authentic environment for the people who inhabit it. "We do it for the actors," she tells me. "So they feel like it's real." Once, for a set on the film *Betsy's Wedding*, the star, Molly Ringwald, requested that a sofa be re-covered three times before she felt satisfied with the result. It took that long, Mache says, "before it felt right to her."

Mache learned her trade while growing up in the small town of Lowell, North Carolina, during the Depression. She was the eighth of 12 children, and by the time she came along, her mother — the driving force in the family — had gotten creative with names. "Mache," which rhymes with "H," came about as an homage to the child's two grandmothers, Mattie and Mary Rachel. "I hated the name then, but I liked it when I got older," she tells me. She feels lucky, too, considering what her mother called some of her siblings: "Thank goodness she didn't name me Zeke or Alberta Tode!"

The family had very, very little. As a small child, Mache climbed beneath the house once a day, filled a jar-lid with red clay soil, and ate it. The ritual helped alleviate severe hunger, which causes "pain like a toothache." Her interest in sewing sprang from hunger as well. Mache's mother earned money by sewing clothes. Mache, standing behind her mom, would watch the sewing while sucking on discarded scraps of fabric. "I liked the flavor of the starch," she says. She thinks the experience probably helped her equate sewing with nourishment.

Still, she says, "it never dawned on me to make a living sewing." For her first job, at the age of 13, she worked at the local library after school. She earned $2.75 a week. Two dollars went to help her family. She spent the rest on deviled egg sandwiches, RC Cola and "fabric to make clothes." Even as a young girl, Mache had an eye for color, texture and design. "There was beautiful prints back then and I always liked them."

And how did Mache break into movies? Her story starts with a set of curtains. By the 1980s, she had married, raised two daughters, moved to Wilmington and divorced. She'd earned money in several ways. She worked as a caregiver and floral assistant. She made butter mints for weddings. And

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREW SHERMAN

BES
BUTLER'S
ELECTRIC
SUPPLY
2013 Castle St. Wilmington, NC 28403
www.butlerselectricsupply.com
Monday - Friday from 8am-5pm
910.762.3345
Welcome home to Butler's
Electric Supply, serving Wilmington
and surrounding area for 70 years!

SCHMIDT
CUSTOM BUILDERS
Southern Living
custom builder program
910.620.1835 | SCHMIDTCUSTOMBUILDERS.COM

she sewed. When Dino De Laurentiis arrived in town and needed an upholsterer for his movie sets, he noticed the window treatments in the house he had rented. Mache had made them. "So they called me," she says. "I've been doing it ever since."

Mache no longer drives. "I love the bus," she tells me. Today, a friend brought her to Famous Toastery. The restaurant specializes in breakfast, lunch and brunch dishes, so we start off by combining all three with the Sunrise Burger, which tops a grilled patty with bacon and a sunny-side-up egg. This unexpected combination makes sense when you bite into it and the yolk runs down over the beef.

"Delicious," Mache says, "but I would never order this for breakfast."

"When would you order it?"

"For lunch."

Honestly, the burger is substantial enough for dinner, but because the Toastery closes at 3 p.m, you'd have to take it home for that. For the rest

THINK BIG

BIG SKY DESIGN
Commercial & Residential
Interior Design

Defining spaces that nurture
inspiration + big ideas

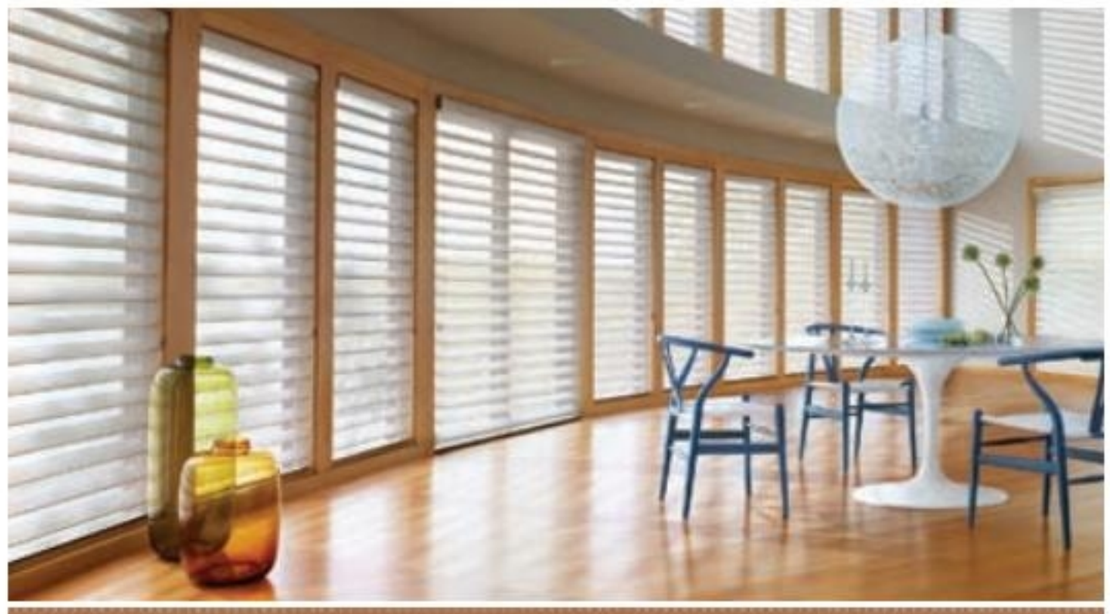
DROP IN!

BIG SKY SHOP + STUDIO

Part storefront for the shopper seeking pure retail therapy, part workshop for the dreamer who needs a little DIY consult.

M-F: 9-5 Sat: 10-5 Sun: Closed

4037 Masonboro Loop Road
www.bigskydesignonline.com
910.793.3992



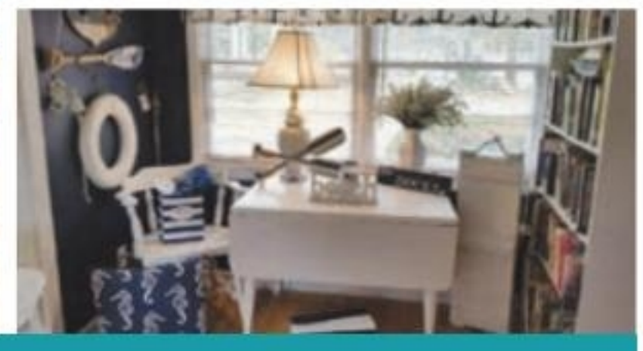
WILMINGTON
Blind & Shutter Closet
COMPANY

Blinds
Shutters
Murphy Beds
Custom Closets

Visit our Hunter Douglas Gallery
& Murphy Bed Showroom
6617 Market Street
wilmingtonblinds.com
910.799.8101

DEBRUHL'S
OF WILMINGTON

Shabby Chic Furniture | Antiques | Fine Decor | Gifts
910.228.6637



225 Pine Grove Dr. Wilmington, NC 28403 *(across from Hugh MacRae Park)*
Mon-Sat: 10am-5pm | angiebass7@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/DeBruhls

of the meal, we basically jump back and forth between lunch and brunch. The lobster roll — meaty chunks of aioli-tossed shellfish stuffed inside a toasted New England roll — works as lunch, as does the California salad, a tangy jumble of fresh greens, walnuts, strawberries, goat cheese and creamy raspberry dressing. For brunch dishes, we try a luxurious French toast — slathered with cream cheese and topped with berries — and then an Avocado Benny, which replaces the English muffin of a Benedict with two egg-topped avocado halves. Mache likes this alteration, adding, "It is better to dress up an avocado, isn't it?"

In the movie business, Mache built her reputation as a seamstress who can get things done. In the past, that sometimes meant staying up all night to finish a project.

"Are you a perfectionist?" I ask.

She shakes her head. "It's more about determination than perfection."

It's also about experience. If a set decorator brings Mache fabric and window measurements, she can calculate in her head exactly how long it will take to get the curtains done. "And nine times out of 10," she says, "I'm correct."

Toward the end of our meal, Mache shows me her hands. Decades of sewing have left her fingers bunched and knotty, as if they're permanently poised to darn a hem or sew a pleat. Other than a sore thumb, though, her hands rarely bother her. "I can still thread a needle," she points out, and she seems perfectly ready to do it.

Famous Toastery, at 6722 Wrightsville Avenue, is open 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. For more information, you can visit www.famoustoastery.com or call (910) 256-7030.

Dana Sachs's latest novel, The Secret of the Nightingale Palace, *is available at bookstores, online and throughout Wilmington.*

Deck Your Dorm!
Create your chicest space for dorm, loft or home
• Original fabrics
• Made in the Carolinas
Shop www.leighdeux.com
A percentage of sales support scholarships for women in entrepreneurship
LeighDeux
DORM • HOME

Chairmen of the Board
The EMBERS
The Original TAMS
I Love Beach Music
Three Legendary Beach Music Bands, One Day!
Also performing:
Workin' on Commission
Bad Moon Rising
Saturday, May 12, 2018
Sanford Arts and Vine Festival
Get Your Tickets Online
www.SanfordArtsAndVine.com
Gates Open 1 pm
Mann Center of NC
507 N. Steele Street
Sanford, NC
Music • Artist Booths • Wine • Craft Brew • Food
Thanks so much to our generous 2018 Sponsors!
Proceeds will benefit the Mann Center of North Carolina.

palm garden
A Lilly Pulitzer Signature Store
Mon-Sat 10-9, Sun 12-6
Mayfaire Town Center • 6804 Main Street • Wilmington, NC • 910.256.9984
www.shoppalmgarden.com

CoolSweats

www.coolsweatsatthebeach.com

Krazy Larry
Wooden Ships
AG Denim
Indigenous
Hard Tail
Mod-O-Doc
Bella Dahl
Kinross
Wilt

Wilmington
Pinehurst

1051 Military Cutoff Rd.
910.509.0273

LILLA | P

A Sparkling Alternative

How carbonated water can bring your "mocktail" to the next level

By Tony Cross

At the beginning of the year, some folks embark on the journey known as "Dry January." Maybe some of you reading this participated in — or should I say, endured? — a few weeks respite from consuming alcoholic beverages, giving your liver a much-needed holiday from the holidays. For those who did: You sure did miss a couple of great snow parties. Not that I was at any of them; I was taking a break from drinking, too. I've had a few this year, but that's it. Just a few.

My business had its first full year in 2017, and we made a lot of strides. Even though I'm excited that we grew, the year was bittersweet. I lost my only brother at the end of 2016, and I spent a lot of last year looking through hazy eyes and going through the motions while trying to make sense of everything. I am a firm believer that sometimes it takes life knocking us down into the dirt before we can grasp what we're capable of, allowing us to fight back. In a nutshell, that's what happened with me. This year, I've started drinking less and working more. I even started teaching an Inferno Hot Pilates class in my spare time. Switching things up has allowed me to enjoy a variety of non-alcoholic beverages. I used to have a few on my menu way back when, and it's always smart to have something — other than Diet Coke — available for guests when you're hosting a party. I've gained a new appreciation for engineering (pretentious?) creative mocktails. Here are some simple and fun drinks when you're taking a night (or a month) off.

There *is* one thing I have begun drinking more of: La Croix sparkling water. I can't even tell you how excited I am to get home and have one these days. I hope that sentence doesn't get me banned from the bartender's union. These zero calorie, canned beverages have become a staple in my refrigerator. If I were going to throw a party, or if someone asked me to be in charge of the bar at theirs, I would go the extra mile. Adding sparkling water into the mix with any drink (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) is never a bad idea. I mean, have you tried our carbonated draft cocktails? What you want to do is create your own base, whether it's a syrup or juice combo. Now that spring is upon us, here's a quick drink that you can whip up and serve made to order, or batch them like a punch. Using fresh cucumber juice this time of the year is perfect for creating light and refreshing elixirs. Add to that a touch of sugar, Pooter bitters from the folks over at crudebitters.com, and you've got yourself a winner.

The Pooter Cuke

Sliced lime
2 ounces fresh organic cucumber juice
1/2 ounce fresh lime juice

PHOTOGRAPH BY TONY CROSS

274 Beach Road North
5 bedroom, 4 full 2 half bath

$4,500,000
Private Figure Eight Island

FIGURE EIGHT REALTY
Sales & Rentals

Toll free: **(800) 279.6085** Local: **(910) 686.4400**
15 Bridge Road, Wilmington, NC 28411 **www.figure8island.com**

GALLIGAN CHIROPRACTIC
FOR PETS, AND PEOPLE TOO!

Helping you with the biomechanics of your horse, the agility of your dog, the suppleness of your cat and . . . *EVERYONE'S HEALTH!*

Dr. Gail Galligan, BA, DC, AVCA
Inducted into Animal Chiropractic Hall of Fame in 2015

1221 Floral Pkwy #103 • Wilmington, NC 28403
910.790.4575 • galliganchiropractic.com

AVCA AMERICAN VETERINARY CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION
Recognized as the World Leader in Animal Chiropractic

furniture • upholstery • carpet & rugs • wallpaper • lighting • artwork • fabrics
wall coverings • window treatments • custom orders • interior design services

nest
Fine Gifts and Interiors

Wilmington's *Premier* location for
interior design, home decor
& accessories

Located in The Forum | 1125-T Military Cutoff | (910) 256-6378 | www.nestfinegifts.com | like us on facebook

dragonflies
4106 Oleander Drive
Wilmington, NC
910-796-9997

1/4 ounce simple syrup (2:1)
5 drops Crude "Pooter" Smoke & Salt bitters*
4 ounces sparkling water

Add cubed ice to a Collins glass. Thinly slice lime wheels and put 3-4 of them in the glass. Combine ingredients (except sparkling water) in a shaker, add ice, and shake like hell for 5 seconds. Strain into Collins glass and top with sparkling water.

*If bitters is out of the question, just add a small pinch of Celtic salt. No substitutes on this one. Have you tried Celtic salt? No? Go pick up a bag and see what I mean. It's amazing.

The gin and tonic is *the* essential summertime drink. But there are two things wrong with writing about this cocktail right now: 1) I'm trying to pass on great non-alcoholic recipes and; 2) It's not summertime. Well, we can still have the tonic, minus the gin, and sometimes springtime in the South can be just as hot as other states' summers. So, without further ado, the Blackberry Tonyc. Believe it or not, my tonic syrup holds its own without any booze, and the notes of orange-citrus complements quite a few types of fruit. Not only does the color turn out gorgeous in this one, but you might convert some tonic haters (speaking from experience here).

Blackberry Tonyc

3/4 ounce TONYC syrup
1/2 ounce blackberry syrup**
1/2 ounce fresh lime juice
4 ounces sparkling water
Orange peel

Combine all ingredients (except sparkling water) into a shaker with ice and shake hard for 5 seconds. Pour sparkling water in shaker, and then strain into a glass with ice. Express the oils from an orange peel over the top of the drink. Place orange peel into drink afterward. Santé!

**Blackberry syrup: Wash and rinse 6 ounces fresh blackberries. Put them to the side. In a pot, combine 12 ounces baker's sugar with 8 ounces water over medium-high heat. Stir until sugar has dissolved. Place sugar syrup in a blender with blackberries. Blend for 10-15 seconds. Pour into a container, and seal. Place in refrigerator overnight. The next morning, strain the syrup through a cheesecloth. Bottle, seal and refrigerate. If you want this syrup to last more than a few weeks, add an ounce of 100-proof vodka to it.

Tony Cross is a bartender who runs cocktail catering company Reverie Cocktails *in Southern Pines.*

MARTA'S

LADIES BOUTIQUE CHIC. SOPHISTICATED. TIMELESS.

CLOTHING ACCESSORIES HANDBAGS JEWELRY

North Hills Adjacent to Renaissance Hotel
Locally owned in Raleigh, North Carolina
919-788-4200 MartasofRaleigh.com

JAMES E. MOORE
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.
Since 1954

Proudly Part of the
Wilmington Landscape
Since 1954
1508 MILITARY CUTOFF RD, STE. 104 • WILMINGTON, NC 28403
WWW.JAMESEMOORE.COM • 910.256.5333

Need a Little Help to Remain Independent?

The Davis Community, your trusted health partner since 1966, is now offering Concierge Care Services. This customized home care is exclusively for the residents of Landfall and other select communities.

Call to schedule a consultation:
910-319-2115

THE DAVIS COMMUNITY

910.686.7195 | thedaviscommunity.org

Greenus Envious

Tips from the tried and failed

By Susan S. Kelly

So it's finally a

warm weekend in spring, and you long to have something to pick, prune, pluck or even deadhead in your yard, garden, or the scorched-earth, weed-whacked plot that passes for it. But you're too busy or lazy to learn Latin names, and it's embarrassing to go to the garden center and say, "I want those, you know, pink flowers that are tall," or " . . . that tree that looks pretty in the spring."

Herewith, therefore, your tried-and-true primer, from someone whose personal dirt's worth is incalculable due to all the tried-and-failed specimens I purchased, trucked in, planted, tended, and either rejoiced or mourned over. Or, alternatively, ripped out, chopped down, and consigned to the mulch pile. Because, in my yard, like professors seeking tenure, you either produce or perish.

Magnolia — Best climbing tree ever. But as a flower, forget it. The blooms are never low enough to cut, and besides, they only last a day. Leave it alone and just sniff the blooms big as plates. Come fall, your children can play army with the seedpods.

Gardenia — Only reliable if you live east of Raleigh. As for picked longevity, ditto the one-day warning above. Touch the vanilla petals and your invisible skin oils will brown them not invisibly. Heavenly aroma, though I rejected them in my wedding bouquet because the overpowering sweetness tends to provoke a gag reflex. Still, nice in a teacup or that silver scallop shell your grandmother used as an ashtray.

Camellia — Cannot be picked or arranged satisfactorily. For viewing only. Bonus: unlike azaleas, stay glossy green all year.

Orange daylilies — My neighbor calls them "privy lilies," presumably because folks once planted them to beautify the outhouse. But they beat the heck out of the stubby gold hybrids planted in interstate medians. Go for it.

Queen Anne's lace — Field and roadside freebies, but bring them inside and they proceed to shed fine white dust all over everything.

Marigolds — Often dumped upon as plebeian blooms, but for this commoner, nothing smells as good as one of their stems, broken.

Cleome — Pink, pretty, proliferous, and self-seeding. What else could you ask for in an airy weed that loves neglect, red clay, and 1,000-degree days? In late summer, take the seeds to the office, to a friend, or, for that matter, to another place in the yard. Strew with abandon.

Black-eyed Susans — As the Chatham Blanket tagline once boasted, they cover a multitude of sins. Require little effort and even less skill to stuff in a glass, metal or pottery container. Do not disparage that which can withstand full sun when you can't. You call them invasive, I call them indispensable.

Knockout roses — The Johnny-come-lately "it" flowering shrub. Utterly unpickable, but compensates for this shortcoming in sheer size and volume.

Peonies — The ultimate bloomer. Often disqualified for, as the farmers like to say, seasonality, but worth the wait, the space and the ants. Go ahead, gird your loins, and bring yourself to cut and enjoy them before a 20-minute thunderstorm causes irreparable loss and gnashing of teeth.

Hydrangeas — Bingo! Once upon a time, my mother referred to hydrangeas as "trash shrubs." I love this. Or rather, I love reminding her of this now that no one can live without them.

Ivy — Just, no. You'll be sorry. Plus, snakes like it. Use pachysandra instead.

There you have it. No more feeling humiliated by Biltmore with its perfect planters and borders and gardens featuring every floral texture and contrast and interest which nevertheless are superior to previously-envied Disney World's planters and borders and gardens. Because Biltmore's flowers actually *grow*, rather than simply get replaced by Snow White's 426 dwarves every night.

Or, how not to waste your time or money on What Won't Work Because We're Not England.

Susan Kelly is a blithe spirit, author of several novels, and proud new grandmother.

ILLUSTRATION BY MERIDITH MARTENS

Airlie

GARDENS

A Garden for all Seasons

www.airliegardens.org

910.798.7700

2018 Concert SERIES

May 18

Signal Fire- *Reggae*

GENERAL ADMISSION MUST PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE

Discover Airlie in April: Spring Bloom • Birding • Tours • Historic Gardens

We do it all, so you can love it all.

We design beautiful, functional spaces—and provide the quality products to finish the look. Best of all, our licensed, insured, locally owned and operated Re-Bath teams complete projects in days, not weeks. Schedule your free in-home consultation today.

Proudly serving Wilmington and Myrtle Beach SC.
Visit our showroom at 6010 Oleander Dr., Wilmington, NC 28403.

910-939-3556 REBATH.COM

NC GC License No. 64871
SC GC License No. 49208

Complete Bathroom Remodeling
Tub & Shower Updates
Aging & Accessibility Solutions

RE·BATH

Carolina Wren

Bright and cheerful – a true sign of Southern spring

By Susan Campbell

"Chirpity, chirpity, chirp." Or is it "teakettle, teakettle, teakettle, tea"? Or maybe it's more like "cheeseburger, cheeseburger, cheeseburger, cheese"? Regardless of exactly how it sounds, this bright, cheery song belies a small and drab bird — the feisty Carolina wren. This diminutive critter is rufous-brown with barred wings and tail. The thin, decurved bill is well equipped to probe nooks and crannies for its favorite food: insects. Not only do they flit around in trees and vines looking for caterpillars, but they will clamber around on windows, doors and porch furniture for spiders and flies.

Common throughout the Coastal Plain year round, Carolina wrens, the state bird of South Carolina, are frequently overlooked — until spring, when their songs can be heard echoing from forests and fields to neighborhoods here in our area. And a rarity among songbirds, both males and females sing, providing double pleasure. In fact, sometimes they can be heard in duets, advertising their territory, vocalizing repeatedly, anytime from dawn to dusk.

At this time of year, Carolina wrens are a common sight as they seek a protected spot in which to construct their nests. They frequently prefer houses, sheds or manmade items over vegetated habitat. Although it may seem foolhardy to us, barbecue grills, bags of potting soil, an old coat or hat may actually provide a perfectly suitable nesting spot. The female will carry in small leaves, pine needles, grasses, moss or even other birds' feathers to create a large, bulky cup nest. She'll finish it off with a partial roof to more effectively hide the eggs and young. Wrens don't seem to mind people coming and going, a seemingly welcome trade-off for the protection humans provide from predators. Peek into one of their nests and more likely than not the female or brooding young will just stare back at you.

Sometimes nesting adults demonstrate great resiliency, or even cunning, in adapting to manmade structures. More than once, a Carolina wren female has chosen a nook on one of the trams that circle the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro as a nesting site. The nesting adults sit tight as the vehicle bumps around the property during incubation. Once the young hatch, adults who leave the nest to find food must wait for the tram (and nest) to return to the parking area to feed their young.

It should not be surprising, then, that these resourceful birds will find their way indoors during spring. If they can, they will squeeze under a door or through a cracked window in order to use the corner of a shelf in a shed or the mudroom of a house. When the fledging day arrives, the parents simply call the young from the nest and show them how to slip outside. Be prepared for the whole brood to find their way back in and crowd into the nest to roost for days, or even weeks, thereafter.

Each winter I get calls about mysterious critters sleeping on high ledges of porches and carports. Described as small brown balls, these unidentified sleeping objects almost inevitably turn out to be roosting Carolina wrens. After a yawn or two, wrens tuck their heads under their wings to roost, puffing themselves up and looking decidedly un-birdlike. They may also spend the night hunkered down in a potted plant or a basket, frightening the daylights out of anyone who, next morning, comes upon them unaware.

Every year around the holidays, I'll get a call or two about an unexpected Christmas guest. Seeking the warmest spot they can find, Carolina wrens often decide to huddle up in someone's Christmas wreath. When subsequent visitors open the front door, the wren instinctively flies toward the brightest light, occasioning merry and sometimes frantic holiday antics as everyone shares their favorite scheme for getting the bird back outside where it belongs.

So if you have never noticed these birds before, you should not have to go too far to find one — unless it finds you first!

Susan would love to receive your wildlife sightings and photos at susan@ncaves.com.

mug and pia

INVITATIONS, STATIONERY, GIFTS & MORE!

Landfall Center, 1319-GG Military Cutoff Road, Wilmington, NC

www.mugandpia.com | 910.239.9241

PAWS & CLAWS

ANIMAL HOSPITAL, P.C.

Dr. Sam Smith
Dr. Stephen Anderson
Dr. Natalie-Anne Reinhart
Dr. Carrie MaGrann

Practicing in Preventive & Internal Medicine,
Advanced Dentistry and Surgery for
Cats, Dogs and Exotics

"Devoted Vets for Beloved Pets"

202 Giles Ave, Wilmington NC 28403
910.399.3768 | info@pawsclawsah.com
www.pawsclawsah.com

SISTA HATS

Church Hats | Vintage Hats | Exclusive Hats
Kentucky Derby Hats | Hats for all occasions!

Inside Rusted Rose Vintage
Bradley Square, 5629 Oleander Drive, Wilmington, NC
910.352.1258 | wilmawilm@msn.com

Release Your Inner Treasure Hunter.

Be the first to shop the amazing,
transformed treasures created by local designers
working with Cape Fear Habitat ReStore finds.

VIP Preview Party & Sale - Friday, May4th 6-9pm
$35 Advance Tickets - Includes hors d'oeuvres, wine & beer
General Public Sale - Saturday, May5th 9am - 2pm
$5 Adults - Kids 10 and under free

theArtWorks
Location: theArtWorks
200 Willard Street - Downtown Wilmington

TICKETS: CapeFearHabitat.org/upscale-resale/

The UpScale Resale Design Challenge is a fundraiser for Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity.

April is Azalea Festival month in Wilmington. Here are the winners of this year's High School Writing Contest, as selected by the Azalea Festival committee. Congratulations to Katherine Neilsen and Hilary Batista!

Our Azaleas

Pitter-Patter. Pitter-Patter. I awoke to the gentle beat of rain on my window and smiled.

Today's the day! Tiptoeing down the hallway, I picked up my raincoat and quickly tumbled outside to the garden, like a toddler when they spot a mouthwatering piece of candy. The day was beautiful. Other than the light drops of rain cascading down, the sun was bright, the grass was green, and everything seemed perfect. It was just like a picture from a fairy tale.

My eyes scanned our garden, until I spotted the azaleas. Our azaleas. The flowers were small, yet colorful, like an intricate painting strewn across the yard. I grinned as I remembered when we had first planted the shrubs a few months back, and now they were gorgeously in full bloom.

Creeaakkkk. The sound of a door opening stirred me from my thoughts. I smiled as I saw my mom, dad, and little brother standing in front of me.

"What are you doing out here in the rain?" my dad chuckled.

I laughed. My brother raced over to where I was and took a look at the azaleas, answering my dad's question. *Wow*, his eyes seemed to say. My parents walked over to where we were, and we all took in their beauty. Finally, I asked the question that I knew was on all of our minds. "Is it time yet?"

A pause, then another chuckle. "Yes, it is."

A few hours later and we were at the parade. Vendors walked the streets, selling goodies and mouthwatering yummies. Children and adults alike walked around, joy on their faces as they saw old friends and were embraced by relatives. Residents poured out of their windows to catch a glimpse of the spectacle. Suddenly, woos, cheers, and clapping erupted in the area. I turned just as the procession began and joined in the sea of people oohing at the colorful floats and music, maybe even spotting a celebrity or two!

I took a deep breath. The parade was more than a parade to me. It was a time where everyone came together. A time where our community put on its best show, and we all gave back to each other, where all the cultures that flourish in our city stand out. A time where children are given hope as they look at the Azalea Belles and princesses and imagine themselves there one day, while adults beam remembering themselves as kids long ago, watching the parade too!

Suddenly everyone became quiet. You could hear little kids whispering and pointing, *"Mommy is that her? I wanna be like that! Is that really her? She looks like a princess!"* Could that really be her? I craned my neck up to see.

As I caught sight of the Queen, I saw the azaleas on her float. They were beautiful! They bloomed with a sense of pride. Colorful and small, yet with a lot to say. *Astonishing.* Just like our Wilmington.

Hilary Batista is a 9th-grade student at Ashley High School.

A Wilmington Tradition

Wilmington is in bloom;
Springtime is here.
The Azalea Festival is coming;
Hear the people cheer.
The street vendors are out;
Get an ice cold lemonade.
It's a Carolina tradition;
To watch the big parade.

Azaleas are everywhere;
Coral and white.
Not a single bush is bare;
It's quite the sight.
Busy bees are buzzing;
Birds are flying.
Breathe in the spring air;
Everyone is smiling.

Girls in the garden;
Wearing colorful gowns.
Their hair all pinned up,
They're the belles of the town.
They walk with grace;
And wear a smile.
Stop and look;
At their Southern style.

The market is open;
The streets are filled.
Get ready to buy;
Aren't you thrilled?
Anything from art to jewels;
There's a great selection.
So, stop by a booth;
And check out the collection.

Excitement in the air;
As the stage lights up.
People anticipating the affair;
Ready for the lineup.
They bought their tickets;
To see the concert.
Their favorite singers.
Wearing their band shirts.

With a pop and a boom;
Bright colors fill the sky.
Kids look in wonder;
As the lights go by.
When they finally end;
People start to go.
Remembering fondly;
The fireworks' glow.

Katherine Neilsen is an 11th-grade student at Laney High School.

Spencer Compton Speaks

The 1st Earl of Wilmington finally has his say

As a fellow Britisher sang many years later, please allow me to introduce myself, I'm a man of wealth and taste.

It's a trifle odd that I have to provide this introduction, for I am the man your fair city is named after, as well as the Wilmingtons in Vermont, Massachusetts and Delaware. The last also has a housing development named after me — Compton Towers — that has, ahem, weekly bingo.

But I dare say few of you would know much about — or even recognize — The Honorable Spencer Compton, the 1st Earl of Wilmington, the second prime minister of Great Britain and a decent third man on my cricket team at St. Paul's School, hard by the Thames in London. (Motto: Fide Et Literis, which I preferred to translate as "faith in leisure.")

Some of my contemporaries and political opponents were fond of saying that I was long on presentation but short on achievement, that my 12 years as speaker of the House of Commons were spent growing my hair and buffing my fingernails while knowing all the answers to the questions I ignored.

History has been vague and unkind to me.

Plodding, lax, ponderous. A man of inaction. The most ordinary of orators. As one bile-filled poet at the time wrote, "See you old, dull important lord, who sits at the long'd for money board."

I weary of the labels left by lesser members of Parliament whose clutching fingers would soil the perfection of my brocaded waistcoat with gold trim. Their faces are unworthy of sunburning.

Which is why I have come to this Wilmington for the very first time to acquaint you with myself, have a look around and assure you that your city is well-named. I feel comfortable here. The Cape Fear River reminds me of the Thames. Some of the older homes resemble those in Warwickshire, where I was born in 1673. (It was Shakespeare's birthplace as well.)

My two brothers and I grew up in a vast moated castle, Compton Wynyates, a Tudor manse that compares somewhat to your Biltmore Estate in Asheville. My great-great-grandfather Edmund Compton started building it in 1481. King Henry VIII had his own room there, which is why that suite's floor is rather scratched and squeaky. Later, Queen Elizabeth I also stayed there. While my childhood friends teasingly pronounced it "WHINEY-ates" let me assure you our family pile is "WINE-yates."

Yes, my family was rich. My father, James, was the 3rd Earl of Northampton. My beautiful mother, Mary Noel, was the best-dressed woman in England and encouraged me in my life as a dedicated follower of fashion. "If you dress smartly," she liked to say, "your silence will be interpreted as brilliance." We come from conservative stock. Tories was the word at the time — God, King, Country! Monarchy beats anarchy! Know your place, and all that.

My older brother was a real pest about it. He could have hosted a conservative talk radio show on your "980 the Wave." When I'd contradict him, he'd bloody my nose and ruin my ruffled blouse.

Which bent my path toward liberalism and the Whig Party.

Consider the time: The cultural battle between the Whigs and Tories had boiled over several times already. It made today's fisticuffs between the left and the right look like ballet. People had their heads lopped off, including a vociferous speaker of the house. (Which is why I preferred a more subdued style. I'm quite found of neckwear, you see.)

The Glorious Revolution of 1688 had given Britain a constitutional monarchy and a Bill of Rights, transferring much of the power from the crown to the Parliament. The Whigs and the Tories were elbowing for position, each certain they could save the nation from the certain doom offered by the other. (I'm reminded of the current political state in this land.)

I hadn't wasted all my time on cricket and haberdashery at Trinity College, Oxford, or at law school in the Middle Temple, home of the Knights Templar. I was born a financial wizard. By age 15 I was counseling my father in his complex web of affairs. And at the Middle Temple I immersed myself in the fascinating world of levies, bounties, peerages and all the other elements that fed the crown and all its people.

Because of my name, my grasp of the inner workings of government and my mother's motto of appearing smart by looking smart, I became Paymaster of Pensions at the age of 34. I served the Prince of Wales as treasurer.

My former good friend and fellow Whig, Sir Robert "Robin" Walpole, 1st Earl of Oxford, was also rising fast in the Parliament. I was three years his senior, and did my best to encourage him to follow my silken footsteps. But he cared little for fashion. It was power and liberalism he craved, and there is likely never a man more suited to have both. He had both passion and reason, a great persuader, perhaps even greater than the PM who came 200 years later, Sir Winston Churchill.

And rather ruthless he was. When we later had a split in our party and our friendship, Sir Robin referred to me as an "old woman," and I wasn't even that

old at the time! As an orator, there have been none greater than Sir Robin. Compared to him, as one my contemporaries said unkindly, I seemed to be "an insignificant piece of liver fat."

Robin even ghost-wrote King George II's first speech for me, even though it galled him that the new king vastly preferred me and my fashion.

I make no excuses. (As I like to say, excuses are only patches on the garment of failure.) Even though I look the part, I am no leader.

Verily, I felt uncomfortable speaking in front of that boisterous body that is the House of Commons, of which I became Speaker in 1715 at the age of 42. When my fellow MPs unanimously voted me Speaker (because I was tall, quiet and quite dashing), I told King George I truthfully that "I had neither memory to retain, judgment to collect, nor skill to guide their debates." But his majesty always admired me and confirmed me anyway.

All that shouting and perspiration! Geese have more decorum than the House of Commons.

While history describes my voice as solemn and sonorous, I was best known for not using it. Frequent were the shouts for me to maintain order. Frequently, I ignored them. Let them squabble like rabble to be heard. My silent motto: The loser shall remain speechless. As I liked to tell members of Parliament who whined about being interrupted, "You have a right to be heard, but the House have a right to judge whether they will hear you."

I was well pleased to let Sir Robin lead. And lead he did, becoming the first minister of finance — what we call Prime Minister today — when I refused the position based on my abject fear of making a hash of it. Plus, there's that old "faith in leisure" thing. After all, I was expected to take my nightly glass of port at the Kit-Cat Club.

But don't get the idea I was a slackard. I had my gift for making things work, and England had a lot going on around the world. Lord John Carteret, 2nd Earl of Granville and secretary of state, worked closely with me behind the scenes to sort the complex conflicts of this new style of governing our vast empire. I had the king's heart and ear and Lord John worked like a termite. We were the ones both the Whigs and Tories could agree upon because we knew how to make a country run. While mocked by some in Parliament and in the toady press, those in the country and distant colonies knew I wasn't just a pretty face. If they needed help or direction, they would petition Lord Wilmington, receiver of (ahem) the Order of the Garter (and not just because I wore them).

Your lovely and important port town, originally called New Carthage or New Liverpool, had become known as New Town or just Newton. When it was incorporated in 1739, it was named after me, even though I had never stepped a silken slipper upon these shores until now. Three years later, in 1742, Sir Robin was ousted due to the split in the party and differences over the war with Spain.

And thus, quite reluctantly and at King George's urging, I took Robin's place as prime minister. I hated it. I was a nervous wreck. My complexion suffered. I became even more taciturn and withdrawn, and the press had a field day with me. Because I was a bachelor, there were those who said I wasn't man enough for the job, if you get my meaning.

A year and five months in, on July 2, 1743, it killed me.

I'm not quite sure why I have been summoned here from the grave. Clearly there must be some grand purpose other than to clear my name.

I was delighted to learn that there was a Spencer Compton Society in Wilmington that met in a home in the historic district. But when I tracked down one of the former members, he knew virtually nothing about me and said they just liked my name and look (of course) and formed the society "to add some pomp and circumstance to our cocktail hour."

No one recognized me at a recent City Council meeting where Residents of Old Wilmington (and they said I was stuffy) were having a row with the commoners over home inns. Mayor Bill Saffo didn't give me a second glance, even though I'm nearly a foot taller than he is and was standing right under the "Spencer Compton Room" sign at City Hall, beside your most dramatic Thalian Hall. (You'll be hearing from Spencer Compton soon, Mr. Mayor.)

During my wanderings about the area — The Juggling Gypsy, Reggie's, The Harp, The Coat of Arms, The Copper Penny (not even Spencer Compton can get into the Fork N Cork), the Riverwalk and the streets and alleys — people stare as if trying to place me.

Only William Irvine, the editor of this grand magazine, immediately recognized me. It is he who suggested a regular column as I explore this city that bears my name and the area surrounding it. I will learn to fish, boat, surf and how to relax in shorts without hose. I will allow the rays of the sun to touch my face. I will search out the people, places, history and things that make Wilmington and eastern North Carolina so unique.

And I may straighten out a few things here, quietly, fashionably.

Reading your newspaper, it would seem these are uncertain times, filled with turmoil, fear, distrust and perhaps something in your drinking water. Let me assure you, I've seen and sorted out much worse.

Fear not, the Spencer Compton is here.

Sleepers, Awake!

A hymn to a few of my favorite (spring) things

Story and Photographs by Virginia Holman

When we moved to the Cape Fear region nearly 15 years ago, I complained each spring and fall that I "missed the seasons." Don't misunderstand; I adored our nearly snow-free winters and the maverick 75-degree week in February. (Truly, what better way to torment friends in cooler climes than by sharing a photo of your pedicured toes in the sand just after they've sent a photo of their beautifully snow-shoveled walkway?) And who could fail to be dazzled by our azaleas in bloom? Despite such gleeful pleasures, the coastal seasons seemed a bit vague to me. In my former home in the North Carolina Piedmont, we had trees that blazed with color in the fall and then lost their leaves. The gold yellow ginkgo tree in the Sarah P. Duke Gardens was my personal favorite. I loved how the fan-shaped leaves shimmered with light and then, as if following the baton of an unseen conductor, shed all their leaves in a single day, spangling the ground in a stunning, perfect finale. Piedmont winters offered stark bare branches that seemed to scratch the snow-heavy clouds. Spring buds fuzzed and berried and leafed and bloomed, and in summer, we had that glorious natural commodity too rare along the blazing, skillet-hot roads and sidewalks of Wilmington — a wide, welcome expanse of dappled shade.

At first, I was only paying attention to the temperature and the plants. Yet the wind is often one of the initial shifts toward spring on the coast. Even if you live in a neighborhood scraped clean of trees and native plants, you can't help but notice spring in the wind. In the wintertime, wind often funnels in from the North, and the north wind over cold water always makes a body feel raw. In the spring and summer, we get more consistent southerly and southwesterly winds. That moist warmth, and longer days full of sunlight, seem to wake everything. As early as February, we see vivid redbuds, cottony flower-

ing Bartlett pears and daffodils. Yet, it's wise to beware spring garden fever — the early pulses of warmth are mere flirtations. Old-timers who've gardened Wilmington for years know it's often unwise to plant vegetables and flowers before April 1. A good rule of thumb is to wait until the fig trees begin to bud, reason enough to plant a brown turkey fig in your yard.

It takes the eye a while to grow attuned to its surroundings, and it wasn't until our fifth year here that I began paying attention to the creatures that arrived with spring. I first noticed obvious arrivals like alligators and hummingbirds, but as I paid attention, I began to observe other creatures as well.

Our turtles begin to stir. Box turtles lumber through the leaf litter on treed lots and protected lands, sometimes venturing across the warm asphalt roads. Snapping turtles do the same, lumbering from swampy areas like retention ponds and natural wetlands to find a place to lay their eggs. Take care when helping turtles across the road, and never pick them up by their appendages. A box turtle may be picked up by hand. They are often quite shy, but don't be alarmed (and don't drop the turtle!) if it gives a grumpy, tiny hiss. Most will hide in their shells when approached. Snapping turtles are bigger — some can weigh in around 50 pounds — and are easily identified by their more fearsome, prehistoric appearance. If you come across a turtle long tail, treat it as if it's a snapper. When relocating a snapping turtle from the road, it's often best to scoot it along gently with a long branch and keep your hands away. The bite of a snapping turtle is something to fear, and you may be surprised by how fast they can move. Always place any turtle across the roadway in the direction it was heading, and never leave one on its back, as it is often difficult for these creatures to easily right themselves. In retention ponds, swamps and slow-moving rivers, you'll see yellow-bellied sliders lined up on logs like toppled dominoes, one on top of the other, to bask in the sun. If you're attentive and lucky, you might spy an endangered spotted turtle near freshwater swamps or a shy mud turtle near the lily pond at Carolina Beach State Park.

Sunny days also bring out the delightful Carolina anole, a sleek little lizard that is most visible when it is apple green. Anoles are most often seen skittering across front porches, grasses and in trees, anywhere they might find tasty insects. The females are easily identified by their long white dorsal stripe and males by their vibrant pink dewlaps, or "throat fans," which they extend in a display to attract females or defend their territory. If you're not a fan of spiders and other insects, a bit of greenery for anoles will help keep your bug population in check. Broad-headed skinks are also out and about in more wooded areas. These long, thick lizards are identifiable by their length (some can grow as long as a foot, though they are more commonly seen between 6 and 10 inches), and the males have a coppery orange head. They tend to dwell higher in the tree canopy than Carolina anoles. Their young are striped with blue tails and can often be seen around logs. They are easily mistaken for five-lined skinks.

In the riparian forests of the lower Cape Fear River, spring migrants arrive in black and white but end in a blaze of color. The delightful black-and-white warbler tends to arrive just a tick before warm weather begins. These cheerful, boldly striped birds move quickly through the trees, foraging for insects. They are most easily spotted along "edges" where woods meet water or a clear patch of land. Once spring arrives, so do the cheerful, vibrant painted buntings. These little birds, the males painted in primary reds, blues and yellows, look like songbirds conjured by Paul Gauguin. You'll see males at the tops of trees along the edges of the riparian forest, singing a rotation of cheerful songs to attract a mate, a dainty yellow-green female. Otherwise, the birds can be a bit secretive, foraging in shrubs and low trees. If you live along a forested area near the river, you may be able to attract painted buntings by keeping a

feeder filled with white millet seed. Carolina Beach State Park has a painted bunting feeder station near the marina, a reliable place to view what birders call this unrivaled or "nonpareil" species.

The return of our majestic ospreys, also known as seahawks, is perhaps my favorite reliable sign of spring. These raptors are easily visible throughout the region. Pairs mate for life. They build an enormous nest, usually in bare or dead trees. Ospreys return to the same nest each year, a distinctive platform of large weathered sticks, which they repair and expand with each nesting season. Ospreys can often be seen hunting along the riverfront, in saltwater marshes and around Greenfield Lake. For such large birds — their wingspan can reach 72 inches — you might think they'd have a screech like a hawk or an owl. Instead, their cry is a high-pitched chirp or whistle. Ospreys regularly nest in the river near Keg Island and throughout the paddle trail through Eagles Island, which is named not for another splendid raptor, but for the Eagles brothers, 18th-century settlers.

Spring also brings many nesting egrets, pelicans and ibis to the long chain of dredge-spoil islands that dot the center of the lower Cape Fear. These islands are protected areas where humans are not permitted to venture. Even so, you can observe the birds by booking a ticket on the Cape Fear Garden Club's Bird Islands cruise or simply look out over the river at sunset and watch as wave after wave of birds return to their island nests against the lavender evening sky.

To book the Cape Fear Garden Club's Bird Islands cruise, go to www.capefeargardenclub.org/bird-islands-cruise/

Author Virginia Holman lives and writes in Carolina Beach.

Our Blooming Mascot

An ode to Cape Fear azaleas

By Barbara J. Sullivan

Quick! Word association game. What comes to mind when you see the word "azalea"? Funnel cakes? Marching bands? Sleeveless gowns with long white gloves and tiaras? The Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction event? (Possibly not, but more about that shortly.) If you live in the Wilmington, North Carolina, area, you might immediately think of the annual Azalea Festival, which brings in street fairs, garden parties, big-name performers and a full-blown downtown parade. At its inception 70 years ago, a group of civic boosters hoped the festival would lure visitors, showcase the newly planted Greenfield Lake Park area and generally elevate the coastal port's standing in the region. In a way, it was an early exercise in branding. Hugh Morton and other community leaders encouraged Wilmingtonians to plant azaleas all across the city, especially in public spaces. The idea, which has survived into the 21st century, is that you can never have too many azaleas.

What's not to love? Azalea shrubs, for the most part, are evergreen, reasonably fast growing, sturdy and undemanding. They can be counted on to bloom reliably year after year, providing floral skirts and crinolines for the clouds of flowering cherries and dogwoods — a tableau that never fails to dazzle for a few short weeks

every spring. Azaleas are a mascot a town can count on. By and large boasting a good life expectancy, they're going to stay where you put them like lamp posts and park benches. The open azalea blossom, with its hallmark five stamens flaring out, suggests nothing so much as fertility, new life, the future about to unfold. Not a bad subliminal message for a town wanting to appear vibrant and forward looking. For many good reasons, over a dozen towns all across the United States — from Hamilton, New Jersey, to Brookings, Oregon — have hit upon the idea of luring people with azalea-themed enticements, and it works.

One of the advantages of living in the coastal South is that we can so easily grow the big, blousy *indica* hybrid azaleas whose blooms are much larger and more open than those of its cousins the *kurumes,* and whose size and lushness generally make a greater impact on garden visitors. If there's one azalea that most people are familiar with, it would be the *indica* 'Formosa', an uber-dramatic magenta giant that tends to dominate wherever it's planted. The other two classic *indicas* for our area are the snowy white 'Mrs. G.G. Gerbing' and the unbeatable shell pink 'George L. Taber' with delicately variegated petals and a sprinkling of freckles hiding in the hollow of each blossom's center. The *indicas* thrive in our hot, humid summers, performing best in slightly acidic soil with moderate moisture. They will grow and bloom in full sun as well as full shade, a feat not many plants can claim — although the perfect spot would be dappled sunlight.

For reasons of stamen count and somewhat obscure botanical taxonomy, azaleas were stripped of their classification as a stand-alone genus back in the 1700s and have had to live as two sub-genera of *Rhododendron* ever since. To a non-botanist this may seem arbitrary and capricious because rhododendrons — those mountain-loving evergreens with broad leaves and showy clusters of lavender, pink or white blossoms — seem pretty easy to distinguish from their azalea cousins. But they both have a remarkable history in common, which takes us to the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction event, which scientists say happened some 66 million years ago and wiped out much of the planet's flora and fauna — including, of course, the dinosaurs.

A couple of million years prior to that event, before the last ankylosaurus exhaled its last breath and at a time when Africa was drifting ever so slowly away from South America, the first green shoot of the family *Ericaceae* pushed his way up through the Earth's surface and began the job of photosynthesizing and reproducing. And then, when just about everything else on Earth departed the planet for good, members of the *Ericaceae* family hung in there. As the planet once again became hospitable to a large variety of plants, the family grew and evolved, eventually branching out into over 100 genera. These now include modern-day heaths and heathers, blueberries, cranberries, mountain laurel, rhododendrons and azaleas (acid-loving lime-haters all). In particular, azaleas are part of a unique group of plants that use fungi called mycorrhizae, which colonize their roots and help them bring in water and nutrients in harsh and inhospitable conditions where other plants might not survive.

But how did we end up, 68 million years later, with these spectacular survivors in our backyards? The ancestors of most of our *kurume*, *indica* and other azalea hybrids originated in Japan, China or the Caucasus region, where they grew in the wild and were cultivated by gardeners for centuries before Europeans became aware of their existence. By the late 1600s emissaries from the European continent had begun traipsing around Asia, sending home azalea specimens and seeds — and feeding the insatiable appetites of plant collectors in places like England, France and Holland. The love affair had begun, and by the 18th century it had grown into a serious trading enterprise.

Meanwhile, the American colonies were playing a major role in this transmigration of the *Ericaceae* family. From the Appalachians to the Southern swamps, amateur botanists like John Bartram and his sons were traveling by horseback and canoe, collecting native plant samples for their eager colleagues across the ocean. Prized among these were more than 25 species of native azaleas like the famous, fragrant, white "swamp honeysuckle" azalea (*Rhododendron viscosum*) and the "pinxter flower" azalea (*R. periclymenoides*), which were among the very first azaleas ever grown in England and became the basis for many popular hybrids.

And crisscrossing the Atlantic in the other direction, the first non-native azaleas (offspring of the original travelers from Asia) had already landed in Mobile, Alabama, by the mid-1700s and were brought to gardens in Charleston and New Orleans in the following decades. From Virginia down to Florida and all along the Gulf Coast, as it became apparent that these flowering beauties were perfectly suited to the local climates and conditions, azaleas became the backbone of the Southern garden. And, no surprise, the favorites to this day remain the splashy, shameless *indicas,* which more than any other plant give us that hit of beauty, sensuality, abandon and luxury we welcome as we greet the rebirth of spring in our gardens.

Barbara Sullivan is the author of Garden Perennials for the Coastal South *and a frequent lecturer on gardening topics.*

A Family Affair

Three generations of a busy family turned to designer Liz Carroll to transform their house on Figure 8 Island into a serene retreat that's easy to share

By William Irvine · Photographs by Rick Ricozzi

The south end of Figure 8 Island has a serene, remote quality, with tall marsh grasses and distant views of Wrightsville Beach across Mason Inlet. This is familiar turf for the Taft family, who first started in a house right down the street from their present one. "One of the sons discovered this house was for sale, so the family has always seen that as an omen that they should stay in the neighborhood," says Liz Carroll, the Wilmington designer who, along with Jeff Morris of Old Fort Building, has transformed the waterfront house into a treasured retreat for three generations of the Taft family, which now includes four grown children and assorted grandkids.

The original design of the house they purchased, which was built in the 1980s, had something of a stylistic identity crisis. An Italo-Moorish-hybrid hacienda with balconies, the entrance was flanked by a large pair of classical Ionic columns. And the house had a serious window problem: small, punched-out demilunes over single windows, a design that seemed unabashedly oblivious to the spectacular vistas surrounding the property, which faces both north and south and has unobstructed views across an inlet to both Mason Sound and the ocean.

Carroll's design solution was completely transformative: Old plank vinyl siding was removed and replaced with cedar shake siding. The facade is now a clean-lined classical wooden beach cottage with a coat of fresh white paint. The back of the house features an enfilade of exterior porches with distinct seating areas that run the entire length of the house and take advantage of the water views. There are a total of seven bedrooms, as well as a bunk room that sleeps four children.

Upon entering the living room on the first floor, a double-height aerie streaming with light, the ocean and sound views are spectacular. Surprisingly, the previous design had no windows on either side of the fireplace or on the ocean side of the house. "It was bad," Carroll says. "We ended up redoing the windows in almost every room of the house to take advantage of the views."

Her solution was to add large transoms above all the French doors on the water side. She also added custom details. The living room mantelpiece, for instance, is a solid piece of old heart pine from the bottom of the Cape Fear River, which matches the color of the dark wooden beams, added by Carroll to make the cathedral-ceilinged room more human in scale. The enormous space serves three functions — living, dining and cooking in a sleek, modern kitchen. "The kitchen was separated from the living room by a windowless wall with a pass-through, so we took that out to add a more bright and open space," Carroll says. The result is stunning: A large kitchen island at the center of the room abuts a curvilinear countertop with dining space for four. There are white floor-to-ceiling cabinets with display cases atop and backsplashes of bright blue ceramic tile. A more formal dining area adjoins the living room, which contains an elegant table for eight with white Chinese Chippendale-style chairs.

The second-floor sitting room overlooks the living area; it had a heavy wrought-iron balcony, which Carroll replaced with glass in order to bring more light up to the sitting room level. Soothing blue and green upholstered pieces and a landscape painting, *Prairie Views* by Soicher-Marin, create an intimate pri-

vate space; it also has its own ocean-view terrace. The owner has a passion for maritime and naval history, and the adjacent desk/study area, which Carroll carved from an existing closet space, features a desktop that is actually an old hatch door from a naval ship. An old framed life preserver was discovered by Carroll at Historical Americana at the High Point Market.

Thomas Taft, the paterfamilias, also has a longstanding interest in Asian art, and this was the directive for the design of the master bedroom suite. When Carroll first started the project, he took her to the family's former beach house in Morehead City to see if she could find anything inspiring. "Much to my surprise, the house was full of Asian antiques — unusual for a beach house," Carroll says. "A little of that goes a long way, and it broke my heart to tell Tom that I couldn't really use any of them." But there are a few concessions in the blue and white-themed master bedroom, which features a ceiling of applied trim pattern of Chinese latticework, a motif that is repeated on the walls of the master bathroom. Carroll also designed a white pagoda display cabinet which features Taft's collection of Chinese porcelain figures.

Each of the grown Taft children had individual design requirements. One daughter-in-law was pregnant, and so her directive was something calm and serene. Her bedroom features light-colored linens and wallpaper in an undulating grass-green pattern. (After their child, Thomas Taft III, was born, he was promoted to a crib down the hallway. Tranquillity remains.) Another daughter went for cool pinks with a wallpaper of coral grasscloth.

A third daughter preferred a crabby chic look — cottagey with old painted furniture, a style that contrasted with the overall design plan. "My challenge was to make this work with the decoration of the rest of the house," says Carroll. She managed to find custom furniture that appears to be vintage but is actually new, including a custom-designed, teal-colored wooden bed frame that features a carved headboard resembling a row of breaking waves. In the corner is a commanding mahogany Montauk search light on a tripod.

A son wanted a strictly nautical theme, so Carroll created a shipshape navy blue bedroom with framed yachting flags over the bed and a tripod reading lamp. And for stray grandchildren and their friends, there is the bunk room, a low-ceilinged room formerly used for storage that Carroll transformed with back-to-back twin beds, separated by dividers for privacy with real nautical portholes than can open and close.

Despite the fact that this kind of design project often ends in a mire of too-many-cooks discord, Coleman has made everyone happy. "Liz and her team have created the quintessential family beach house for us," says Thomas Taft. "Multiple generations can share in the blessing of sun, surf and family as much — or as little — as they choose." Sounds like paradise.

William Irvine is the senior editor of Salt.

Woodrow Was Here

By William Irvine · Photographs by Rick Ricozzi

A visit to an elegant Greek Revival house on Front Street, where the former president was a regular houseguest

In November 1849, a young journeyman worker named Nicholas Schenck came to Wilmington, North Carolina, to clerk in his Uncle Phineas's painting business. Nicholas was the latest in a string of more than 20 apprentices hired by his uncle, who "had a great fancy for taking poor boys (orphans) to learn his trade (painting) and send them to night school," according to Schenck's diary. Shortly after his nephew's arrival, Uncle Phineas decided to retire, and turned the business over to John Alfred Parker, one of the boys he had raised, who immediately offered an apprenticeship to young Nicholas: "He proposed to me to keep his books and write his letters — he would give me a good furnished room in his house and my board. He was a plain-ordinary-good sort of fellow — industrious. I lived there till married in November 1858. The many years I enjoyed their hospitality, nothing but kindness came to me."

The house in question where Nicholas took his room and board still stands today: It is now known as the Parker-Saunders House (c. 1844), an elegant Greek Revival-style residence at 401 Front Street built for the prosperous painter John Parker (1819 -1875) and his wife, M.A. Alway (1826-1861). It will be featured as part of this year's Azalea Festival Home Tour, presented by the Historic Wilmington Foundation.

Historical records show that John Alfred Parker acquired the lot in January 1844 for $640. The house was likely designed by John S. Norris, a New York architect who was in Wilmington constructing the 1843 Custom House. The original house was built of brick, then stuccoed; it was

later enveloped in wood siding and bracketed in the fashionable Italianate style in the 1870s.

The current owners, Don and Kathy Britt, have lived in the house for some time. "We have two daughters who grew up in this house who are now 50 and 47, so we have been here for a while," says Don with a chuckle. The Britts started out living in Forest Hills and initially looked at the Front Street house with some reluctance, as they had two small girls and there was no backyard. But they were both sold on living in the historic district and the house the minute they saw it. Despite the fact that the house has been renovated, there was still plenty to do. "And the first summer we lived here, we had no air-conditioning," Kathy recalls nostalgically.

The immediate neighborhood has changed quite a bit since the house was built. A great fire in Wilmington in the 1880s enveloped the waterfront, and the house was one of the few spared on Front Street other than the Dudley Mansion (1825), directly across the street. The rest of the domestic architecture surrounding the house dates to the later Victorian era. And by the time the Britts moved in, many residents had left downtown for the suburbs. "One of the neighboring

houses was unrestored and used by a local antiques dealer for storage, if that gives you an idea," says Don. Some of the properties around the corner on Nun Street were flophouses, all owned by the same landlady. She rented many of the rooms to retired servicemen, who liked to spend time lounging on the curbside.

But the Parker-Saunders House could not have asked for finer stewards than the Britts, who have combined a sensitive restoration of the house's distinctive architectural features with an important collection of work by contemporary North Carolina artists, among them William Overman, Caroline McCauley, Elizabeth Darrow, and sculpture by Rob Mangum. Kathy comes from artistic stock as well. Her father's ancestors were among the original residents of Old Salem, and her grandparents were Moravian missionaries, who lived in Alaska when her mother was a young girl. Her mother created marvelous sculptures of Eskimo people from her memories of her Alaskan childhood. Kathy's father was a talented needlepoint artist, and there are several fine examples of his work throughout the house, ranging from patterned cushions on the dining room chairs to a large framed

piece in the living room inspired by the medieval Bayeux tapestries of figures surrounding a chateau.

Upon entering the house, the visitor first notices the beautiful (and original) wide-planked heart-pine floors that grace the front hall and the living room. To the right of the entrance are two large adjacent parlor rooms with 12-foot ceilings, now used for living and dining and separated by sliding pocket doors. Moving across the front hall, there is a cozy library that features a distinctly local antique, James Wimble's *Chart of His Majesties Province of North Carolin*a, from 1733, a large map of the coast of southern North Carolina from Cape Hatteras to Cape Fear and Wilmington. Wimble was an accomplished cartographer and one of the co-founders of Wilmington.

The back of the house now has a large, bright kitchen with a black and green-tiled floor and dramatic floral wallpaper on a blackground, which the Britts created by combining the former

galley kitchen and an adjoining back porch. Although the dumbwaiter is long gone, there is a door that leads to a (still) working plywood elevator, designed for an earlier resident of the house who couldn't handle the stairs and a source of great entertainment for the young Britt girls.

One of the most dramatic features of the Parker-Saunders house is a cantilevered staircase in the back of the house that curves gracefully from the upper bedroom floor all the way to the English basement, which housed the dining room until 1904 (much cooler to eat down there). Atypical of houses of this period, the kitchen was also downstairs instead of in a separate building. The Britts have made this a commodious family room with a television and another fireplace.

Another interesting chapter in the house's story involves Woodrow Wilson. In 1871, the house was acquired by Charles and Elizabeth Robinson, who became good friends with the Rev.

J.R. Wilson, who had arrived in Wilmington in 1874 with his wife and son, Woodrow, to begin his pastorate at the First Presbyterian Church. Shortly after the Wilsons' arrival, the manse to the church burned to the ground, and Wilson and his wife were given a smaller apartment nearby. After spending his freshman year at Davidson, Woodrow fell ill and returned home to Wilmington to see his parents and often stayed with the Robinsons on his holiday visits for the 10 years the family lived in Wilmington.

When the Britts' grandson George was 8 years old, he was greatly inspired by a family trip to Philadelphia to see the Declaration of Independence. When he next visited his grandmother in Wilmington, he remarked that he had been so impressed to walk where presidents had walked. "Well, George," Kathy said, "you know you have used the same steps and banister rail as President Woodrow Wilson in our house for years and years!" This had never occurred to him, but he remains impressed to this day.

The Azalea Festival Home Tour will take place April 14 from 1-6 p.m. and April 15 from 1-5 p.m.,
and will feature 11 historic Wilmington properties. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on April 14 at 12:30 at the Daniel-Poisson House, 315 S Front St. There will be docents at each location to share house highlights and history. For tickets and information: www.historicwilmington.org.

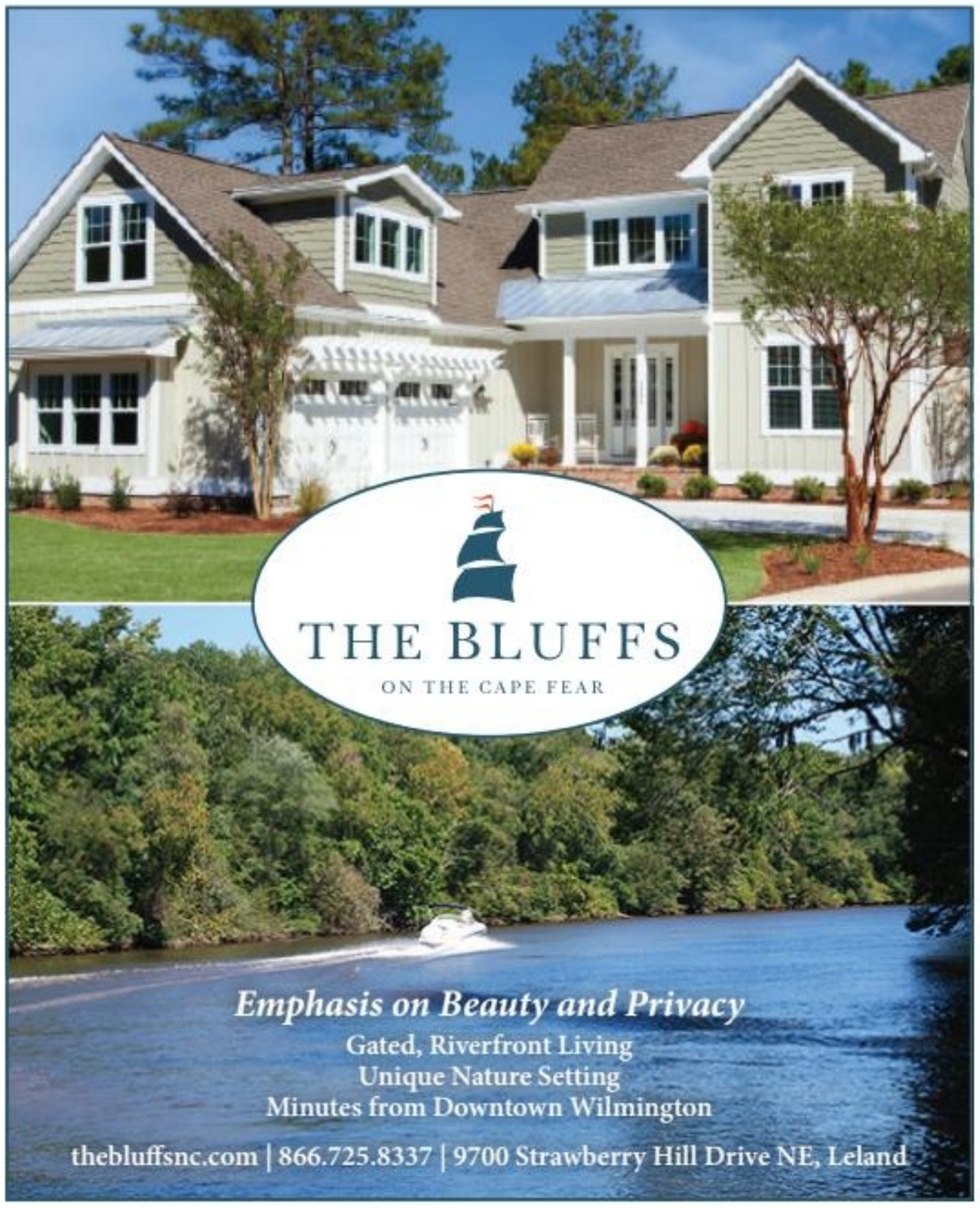
Second-Generation Craftsmanship That's Second To None.

Coastal Cabinets founder Mike Powell has been building fine cabinetry since childhood. Now with more than a dozen skilled artisans, Coastal Cabinets can handle any size custom project.

"My father taught me what it means to work hard and to make sure every customer is happy with the finished product."

COASTAL CABINETS

910.792.6152 CoastalCabinets.com


THE BLUFFS
ON THE CAPE FEAR
Emphasis on Beauty and Privacy
Gated, Riverfront Living
Unique Nature Setting
Minutes from Downtown Wilmington
thebluffsnc.com | 866.725.8337 | 9700 Strawberry Hill Drive NE, Leland

Welcome to Helms Port

5825 Harbor Breeze

4 Bed | 4.5 Bath
3,235 Sq Ft
$1,100,000

Opportunity to purchase boat slip in marina (C-1) $120,000

SHERWOOD STRICKLAND GROUP

COLDWELL BANKER SEA COAST ADVANTAGE | GLOBAL LUXURY

Maid In Brazil

"Cleaning the world one house at a time"

910-660-2272
Bonded and Insured
Commercial and Construction Cleaning
FREE ESTIMATES

The 5th Annual
WILMINGTON JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

April 22-24, April 29-May 1,
May 5-6, 2018

THALIAN HALL
CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Film Schedule:

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 3 PM.....Shelter
MONDAY, APRIL 23, 7 PM.....Sammy Davis, Jr: I've Gotta Be Me
TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 7 PM.....An Israeli Love Story
SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 1 PM.....My Hero Brother
SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 7 PM.....1945
MONDAY, APRIL 30, 7 PM.....Shalom Italia
TUESDAY, MAY 1, 7 PM .....Defiant Requiem
SATURDAY, MAY 5, 7 PM.....Humor Me
SUNDAY, MAY 6, 3 PM.....Past Life

To purchase tickets or for more information on selected shorts & reception times, visit wilmingtonjff.org

Visit our juried festival art show!
"Jewish Art: Diverse Cultures"
at Art in Bloom Gallery and at Thalian Hall

PRESENTED IN PART BY: Visit Wilmington NORTH CAROLINA | United Jewish Appeal of Greater Wilmington

Cape Fear Chorale presents

Simply Schubert

Franz Schubert's Lebenslust, Tantum Ergo in E flat, Stabat Mater in G minor and Mass in B flat

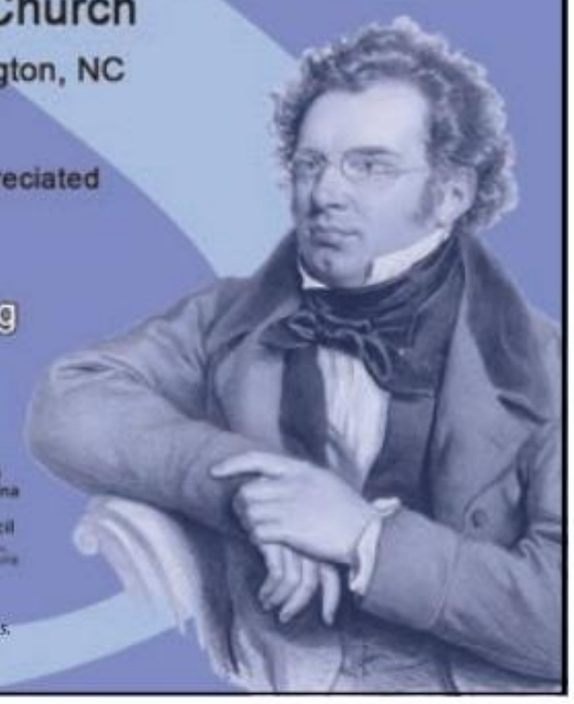
April 28 - 7:30 p.m.
April 29 - 4 p.m.

Cape Fear Chorale

Winter Park Baptist Church
4700 Wrightsville Ave. Wilmington, NC

Free Admission | Donations Appreciated
Wheelchair Accessible

www.capefearchorale.org



With support from
Landfall Foundation — Together in Community Giving
North Carolina Arts Council

This project was supported by the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources.

BRING IT DOWNTOWN

Bring It! DOWNTOWN

SHOP AND EXPLORE
over 150 unique shops, galleries, boutiques and salons promoting local and regional specialties.

DINE OR HAVE A DRINK
at over 100 restaurants and pubs, many wth outdoor terraces or sidewalk cafe seating.

DOWNTOWN WILMINGTON
showcases the history of the town and promotes the vibrancy of the Cape Fear River.

PARK FREE FOR THE FIRST HOUR IN CITY DECKS AND CATCH A RIDE ON OUR FREE TROLLEY!

WWW.BRINGITDOWNTOWN.COM

Going LOCAL ARTISAN GIFTS

A Local Artisan Experience

Artisan Goods from the Mountains to the Coast of NC

11-5 Mon-Thu
11-7 Fri-Sat
12-5 Sun

(910) 769-4833
208 N. Front St.
www.goinglocalnc.com

One-of-a-kind mommy and me clothing, locally designed

Ehralee Road

ALMANAC

April

By Ash Alder

I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose I would always greet it in a garden.

–Ruth Stout

If the flowering cherry tree could speak, she wouldn't tell of her own beauty.

Words could never capture it.

But with her powder soft voice, she might sing of the garden: banksia rose spilling over with fragrant yellow blooms; copper mobile, whirling beneath the redbud; foxglove, swooning from the tender kiss of the nectar-drunk hummingbird.

She might sing of bluebirds or violets or kissing in the rain.

Or maybe she does.

Yes, can't you hear her? Voice like a siren. Sultry as a whisper at the nape of your neck.

Listen.

She serenades the squirrel babes, blind and naked, whose mother built their nest with stuffing from the neighbor's patio cushions.

At twilight, she hums low while the pregnant doe clears a row of tulips sweet as candy.

Sunny jonquils harmonize with whippoorwill – *Look-at-me! Look-at-me!* – but the deer moseys onward.

As cherry maiden stifles laughter, all the world sings back.

While the Azalea's Still Blooming . . .

Plant the eggplants, beets and melons! Pumpkins, squash, green beans and peppers! And if you're looking for a down-home summer – the white bread and black pepper type – sew the cukes and maters in the soft, cool earth.

Asparagus Season

Greek myth tells that spring is when Demeter, mother-goddess of harvest and fertility, celebrates the six-month return of her beautiful daughter, Persephone (goddess of the Underworld), by making the earth lush and fruitful once again.

But what on earth did she do with all those tender green shoots of asparagus? Quiche. Soup. Risotto. Frittata. Asparagus custard tart . . .

In the spirit of Easter (Sunday, April 1), how about a festive beverage to serve up with that asparagus-studded brunch?

And don't forget all those garden parties this month.

Carrot Bloody Mary (Serves 4)

Ingredients

32 ounces carrot juice
8 ounces vodka
6 ounces pickle juice
juice from one-half lemon
5 dashes Worcestershire sauce
3 teaspoons crab seasoning (more for rimming)
3 teaspoons black pepper
2 teaspoons dill
2 teaspoons garlic powder
2 teaspoons ground ginger
2 teaspoons horseradish
2 teaspoons hot sauce (modify by your heat preference)

Instructions

Add all ingredients into a pitcher, then stir until combined.

Slide the flesh of a lemon around the rim of each pint glass, then place the rims onto a plate of crab seasoning to lace them.

Fill pint glasses with ice, then pour the carrot juice mixture over top. – garnish with pickled vegetables, celery, or tomatoes. Enjoy!

The ancient Celts looked to the trees for knowledge and wisdom. According to Celtic tree astrology, those born from April 15 to May 12 associate with willow, an enchanted tree that symbolizes love, fertility, beauty and grace. Creative, patient and highly intuitive, willow people are mystical by nature. They are most compatible with birch (December 24 to January 20) and ivy (September 30 to October 27) signs.

SOUTHERN TIDE SIGNATURE STORE

910.239.9014 | MAYFAIRE TOWN CENTER

925 TOWN CENTER DRIVE, SUITE D130 | WILMINGTON, NC 28405

See you at the Main Stage.

THURSDAY APRIL 12

Billy Currington • Drake White • Kenton Bryant

FRIDAY APRIL 13

38 Special • Tuesdays Gone

SATURDAY APRIL 14

Ludacris • Childish Major

NCAZALEAFESTIVAL.ORG

BOX OFFICE 910-794-4650

Jennifer Anderson DVM | Meghan Tayloe DVM

910.769.3395 | coastalpethospice.com | @coastalpethospice

- Providing in-home compassionate end-of-life care for your beloved dogs and cats
- Helping families make quality-of-life assessments and provide comfort care for senior, geriatric, and terminally ill pets
- Member of the International Association for Animal Hospice and Palliative Care

WARM

8th Annual

Raise the Roof

Gala and Auction

HAVANA NIGHTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2018

7:00 PM - HOLIDAY INN RESORT

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH, NC

LIVE MUSIC BY L SHAPE LOT

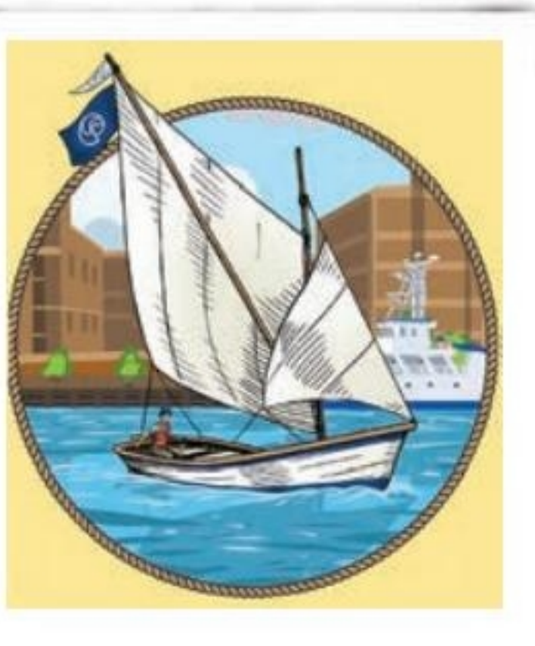
LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS

ISLAND INSPIRED DINNER AND DRINKS

Tickets - $100/person or $900/Table for 10

www.warmraisetheroof.org

Arts Calendar



CFCC Riverfront Boat Show

4/7

Wilmington VegFest

4/14

Alligator Workshop

4/26

4/2 Maks, Val & Peta Live on Tour: Confidential

7:30 p.m. Confidential is the all-new dance tour from the stars of ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*, Maksim Chmerkovskiy, Valentin Chmerkovskiy and Peta Murgatroyd. The cast draws upon their own lives to provide an honest, emotional show, their second national tour. Admission: $46-88. The Wilson Center, 703 North Third Street, Wilmington. Info and tickets: (910) 362-7999 or www.capefearstage.com.

4/3 Maria Schneider Orchestra

7:30 p.m. Grammy Award-winning composer Maria Schneider and her 18-piece band put on a night of music to remember, featuring pieces from jazz to rock. Admission: $25–75. UNCW Kenan Auditorium, 601 South College Road, Wilmington. Info: (910) 962-3500 or www.uncw.edu/arts.

4/4 Snake and Turtle Feeding

4 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Enjoy a brief presentation about the live animals on display in the Events Center and then watch them feed. Ages three and up. Admission: $1. Halyburton Park, 4099 South Seventeenth Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 341-0075 or www.halyburtonpark.com.

4/5 Sidra Bell Dance New York: Monster Outside

7:30 p.m. Sidra Bell Dance New York joins forces with Swedish composer Per Storby Jutbring and his critically acclaimed chamber ensemble New Tide Orquesta and vocalist Joseph Keckler to create a unique performance about the nature of outliers in contemporary society. The performance engages live audiences in the process of deconstructing social structures that create outsiders in our society by looking at those who live and operate outside the norm. Admission: $25. The Wilson Center, 703 North Third Street, Wilmington. Info and tickets: (910) 362-7999 or www.capefearstage.com.

4/5 Rosanne Cash with John Leventhal: "Black List River"

7:30 p.m. An acoustic performance of "Black List River" by Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Rosanne Cash and her collaborator and husband, John Leventhal. Admission: $49–69. Thalian Hall, 310 Chestnut Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 632-2285 or www.thalianhall.org.

4/5 Jazz at the CAM: Heart of Carolina Jazz Orchestra

6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Cameron Art Museum presents Jazz at the CAM with the Heart of Carolina Jazz Orchestra, a band led by Gregg Gelb and highlighting the connection of jazz and Broadway. Admission: $10-$20. Cameron Art Museum, 3201 South Seventeenth Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 395-5999 or www.cameronartmuseum.org.

4/6 Dinner Theater: Azalea Festival Queen

7 p.m. Enjoy dinner and a comedy that follows the wealthy Jonathan family as it attempts to buy their daughter the Azalea Queen crown. Tickets: $18-$42. TheatreNOW, 19 South Tenth Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 399-3669 or www.theatrewilmington.com.

4/6 Halyburton Park Bird Walk

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Join park staff for a leisurely bird-watching stroll around Halyburton Park. Search for migrants, winter residents and year-round bird species. All are welcome, especially beginner birders. Admission: Free. Halyburton Park, 4099 South Seventeenth Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 341-0075.

4/7 Ukuleles Unite

7 p.m. Winter Park Presbyterian Church presents Ukuleles Unite, a concert featuring Masonboro Parlor, the Unresolved Stringband and the Port City Pickers. Admission: Free. 4501 Wrightsville Ave., Wilmington. For information: winterparkpres.org.

4/7 CFCC Riverfront Boat Show

9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The Cape Fear Riverfront Boat Show will feature a wide variety of wooden and fiberglass boats from both amateurs and professionals. Spectators can enjoy boat building demonstrations and can speak with the boat builders. Admission: free for spectators; see website for participant entry fees. North Water Street between the Hilton and Coastline Convention Center, Wilmington. Info: (910) 362-7151 or www.cfcc.edu/boatshow.

4/7 The Wizard of Oz

2 p.m. and 6 p.m. A family favorite brought to life by Wilmington's premier professional ballet company, featuring 23 professional dancers from all over the world. The show will include giant puppetry, special LED effects, and several surprises. It is a perfect show for all ages. Admission: $15-25. The Wilson Center, 703 North Third Street, Wilmington. Info and tickets: (910) 362-7999 or www.capefearstage.com.

4/7 The Villages Spring Market at Brunswick Forest

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. A spring market where more than 60 artists and crafters from Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender counties will sell their

OPTIMAL LIVING
ULTIMATE LIFESTYLE
Call 910.408.3039 today to schedule a personal tour of Wilmington's premiere resort style optimal living community.
Limited time offer on select new units in Phase 2, including a $1000 moving package.
CAMBRIDGE VILLAGE
WILMINGTON
An Optimal Living Community
75 CAVALIER DRIVE | WILMINGTON, NC 28405 | www.cambridgevillageofwilmington.com

CRAIGE & FOX PLLC
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

JENNIFER M. RODEN

ATTORNEY AT LAW

Jennifer concentrates her practice in the areas of Estate Planning, Special Needs Trusts, and Elder Law

2012-2013 Fellow for Borchard Foundation Center on Law & Aging

Membership Committee Chair of the Elder and Special Needs Law Section of the North Carolina State Bar

President of the New Hanover County Estate Planning Council

701 MARKET STREET • WILMINGTON, NC 28401 • WWW.CRAIGEANDFOX.COM
910-815-0085 PHONE • 910-815-1095 FAX

original artwork, crafts and food. Stores and restaurants within walking distance. Rain or shine. The Villages at Brunswick Forest, 1333 Dickinson Drive, Leland. Info: (910) 399-7198 or www.villagesatbrunswickforest.com.

4/7–4/8 — 26th Annual Herb and Garden Fair

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Saturday); 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Sunday). Mark the beginning of spring with a two-day event featuring some of North Carolina's best herb and plant vendors and local artisans and crafters. The Poplar Grove grounds will be filled with a wide selection of local plants, food and plenty of activities for kids. Admission: $5 (free for kids under 12). Poplar Grove Plantation, 10200 Highway Seventeen North, Wilmington. Info: (910) 686-9518 or www.poplargrove.org.

4/8 — Haya Band: Migration Concert

3 p.m. The award-winning Chinese world music ensemble blends innovative, modern tunes with folk songs, throat singing, classic chants, the Mongolian horse-head fiddle, plucked string instruments, and shaman drums. Tickets: $20-$36. Thalian Hall, 310 Chestnut Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 632-2285 or www.thalianhall.org.

4/8 — Calidore String Quartet

7:30 p.m. As one of the most celebrated young international quartets, the Calidore String Quartet has been recognized by BBC Radio and received a residency at the Chamber Music Society of the Lincoln Center. Admission: $15-30. UNCW Beckwith Recital Hall, 5720 Randall Drive, Wilmington. Info: (910) 962-3500 or www.chambermusicwilmington.org.

4/8 — Bellamy in Bloom Spring Tea

1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Enjoy sandwiches, desserts and scones from Little Pond Catering, a cocktail, and a raffle at the Bellamy in Bloom Spring Tea fundraiser. Admission: $53. Bellamy Mansion, 503 Market Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 251-3700 or www.bellamymansion.org.

4/8 — Cape Fear 17 Triathlon @ RiverLights 2018

8 a.m. This race begins with a 750m swim, followed by a 20k bike, and ends with a 5k run. The swim takes place in the 38-acre manmade lake in the RiverLights community. Spectators will easily be able to see the swim and the run trail that encircles the lake. Admission: Free for spectators; see website for participant registration. RiverLights, 4410 River Road, Wilmington. Info: (910) 251-9622 or www.setupevents.com.

4/10 — Over 50s Dance

7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. Dance to the fantastic ballroom, social, and line dance selections of DJ Buddy Langly at the Over 50s Dance. Couples and singles are welcome. Admission: $8. New Hanover County Senior Resource Center, 2222 South

College Road, Wilmington. Info: (910) 620-8427 or www. overfiftiesdanceclub.org.

4/11-15 71st North Carolina Azalea Festival

The 71st North Carolina Azalea Festival in downtown Wilmington is an annual community celebration and includes big-name entertainment, festive galas and fun family events. Visit the Azalea Festival website for a complete list of events and locations. Info: (910) 794-4650 or www.ncazaleafestival.org.

4/12 An Evening With Gillian Welch

8 p.m. Multiple Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Gillian Welch will perform with David Rawlings at the Brooklyn Arts Center. Welch and Rawlings have a dynamic musical style with elements of bluegrass, country and Americana. Tickets: $40. Brooklyn Arts Center, 516 North Fourth Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 859-4615 or www.brooklynartsnc.com.

4/12-15 Love, Loss, and What I Wore

8 p.m. (Friday and Saturday); 3 p.m. (Sunday). Big Dawg Productions presents Nora and Delia Ephron's play *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*, a production that features monologues and ensemble pieces about women, clothes and memory. Admission: $15-$22. Cape Fear Playhouse, 613 Castle Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 367-5237 or www.bigdawgproductions.org.

4/14 Wilmington VegFest

12 p.m. – 5 p.m. The inaugural Wilmington VegFest features activities that focus on the vegan lifestyle and includes demonstrations, speakers, and more than 45 vendors. There will also be food trucks, craft beer, and live music. Admission: $10 (free for kids). Coastline Conference and Events Center, 503 Nutt Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 431-8852 or www.wilmingtonvegfest.com.

4/14 Third Annual Wilmington Brewery Showcase

6 p.m. – 9 p.m. The third annual Wilmington Brewery Showcase features 13 local breweries offering original creations for sampling, live music, food trucks and a souvenir cup. Admission: $13-35. Audi Cape Fear, 255 Old Eastwood Road, Wilmington. Info: www.lighthousebeerandwine.com.

4/14 Beach, Bacon and Beer Festival

11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. This friendly culinary competition will feature unique bacon-inspired treats paired with beer and wine. Several prizes will be awarded. Admission: $5 (ages 12 and under are free). Carolina Beach Lake Park, Lake Park Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue, Carolina Beach. Info: (910) 458-8434 or www.pleasureislandnc.org.

4/16 Swing Into Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Presented by the Cape Fear Guardian Ad Litem Association, the event will include a cash bar, raffle, and silent auction. Proceeds benefit more than 500 neglected and abused foster children in the community. Tickets: $80. Country Club of Landfall, 1550 Landfall Drive, Wilmington. Info: (910) 616-7151 or www.cfgala.org.

4/18-22 Carolina Cup

The Carolina Cup at the Blockade Runner Beach Resort features five days of Stand Up Paddle Board (SUP) clinics and expos, and a weekend of standup paddleboard competitions. The Carolina Cup includes a kid's course, Harbor Island Recreational fun race, the Money Island Open Race, and the ultimate challenge of the 13.2 mile Elite Graveyard Race. Blockade Runner Resort, 275 Waynick Boulevard, Wrightsville Beach. Info: (910) 616-9675 or www.wrightsvillebeachpaddleclub.com.

4/19 Caleb Teicher Dance

7:30 p.m. An evening of dance performed by the acclaimed Caleb Teicher & Company blending traditional and modern dance styles. Co-presented with the UNCW Office of the Arts. Admission: $20–36. Thalian Hall, 310 Chestnut Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 632-2285 or www.thalianhall.org.

4/21 Flytrap Frolic

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. A free community education event on native carnivorous plants. The event will include a scavenger hunt, plant-themed crafts, live animal exhibits and a garden tour. Admission: Free. Stanley Rehder Carnivorous Plant Garden, 3800 Canterbury Road, Wilmington. Info: (910) 790-4524 or www.coastallandtrust.org/event/flytrap-frolic.

4/21 Second Annual Cinderella's Closet

Local high school girls who may not afford the resources to afford prom have a chance to find the dress of their dreams. Grace United Methodist Church collects gently used formalwear, shoes and accessories to be given out on a "shopping day." Girls are given a personal shopper, catered food, outfitted with accessories and shoes, and are provided with a seamstress on hand to ensure the dress is tailored to them. Appointment only. Grace United Methodist Church, 401 Grace Street, Wilmington. For appointments or more information: (910)-619-9303 or cinderellasclosetilm@gmail.com.

4/21 Wilmington Earth Day: Building a Better World

12 p.m. – 6 p.m. Celebrate Earth Day with free live music, food and drinks, and a kid's EcoZone. The event will be a celebration of the natural world and hopes to increase the environmental literacy of citizens. Admission: Free. Hugh MacRae Park, 314 Pine Grove Drive, Wilmington. Info: www.wilmingtonearthday.com.

4/22 Shakespeare Brunch

12 p.m. Shakespeare Brunch at TheatreNOW features a greatly abridged (one hour) reading of Shakespeare's classic play *Hamlet*. Admission: $8-$20. TheatreNOW, 19 South Tenth Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 399-3669 or www.theatrewilmington.com.

Port City Java is a proud community supporter. We donated over $30,000 in 2017 to the following organizations.

Hope Abounds, Inc. • UNCW 5K • Azalea Pre Fest • NHRMC Founders Ball • Saltwater School • Pancakes for Rich • Night to Shine • Polar Plunge • NHRMC • GallantFew • Good Shepherd • NC Aquarium Volunteers • Alpha Phi • Hunks & Hounds • Ashley JROTC • Healthy Start Breakfast CIS • Heart Ball • CIS • Beard & Mustache Competition • CFA • Canines • Issac Bear Early High School • UNCW Conference • Wilmington Girls Choir • Good Shepherd • Anderson Elementary • SaludHonda • Blue Tie Gala • NHCS Field Day • Harrelson Center • Light it Up Blue • Murray Middle PTA • Power of the Purse • Hoggard Golf Tournament • Winter Park Elementary • ILM Rotary • My Brothers Keeper • Pickleball Dink for Pink • Friends School • Carousel Center • paws4people • OasisNC • SP Kiwanis 5K • Azalea Belles • NCIAI • Leland Parks & Rec • NICU @ NHRMC • V. Williamson Elem. PTA • Covenant Church • NHRMC-RFL • FORE-golf • Dancing with the Wilmington Stars –St. Marys • Tri Sigma • ALS walk • Patrons Ball-AF • Celebrity Reception-AF • Veterans Job Fair • Street Fair-Volunteers • Parade Volunteers • ILM/YMCA • Chamber of Commerce • CB Youth Group • St. Baldrick's • CFCC Earth Fair • Coastal Horizons • Brunswick County Literacy Council Spelling Bee • College Park Elem. • JDRF • Southport-Oak Island Animal Rescue-Party Furr the Paws • Cape Fear Enrichment Program- I am Beautiful Fashion Show

AND MANY MORE!

PORT CITY JAVA
est. 1995 | Wilmington, NC

FOLLOW US ON

DINING GUIDE

Wilmington
1437 Military Cutoff Rd • Wilmington, NC 28403
(910) 679-8797 • NothingBundtCakes.com

CAPE FEAR SPICE® MERCHANTS
SPICES • TEAS • GIFTS

ALWAYS FRESH

THE AREA'S LARGEST SELECTION OF LOOSE LEAF TEAS & SPICES

Featuring California Olive Oils & Vinegars

Located at 20 Market Street, Downtown Wilmington

(910) 772-2980

CALENDAR

4/22-23 — 15th Annual Good Shepherd Golf Tournament

This fundraiser for the Good Shepherd Center includes a Tee Off Dinner, cocktails, auctions and music on Sunday, and card games and golf tournaments on Monday. Admission: $46.50-$250. Country Club of Landfall, 1550 Landfall Drive, Wilmington. Info: (910) 763-4424 or www.goodshepherdwilmington.com.

4/22-5/6 — Fifth Annual Jewish Film Festival

3 p.m. (Sunday); 7 p.m. (Monday and Tuesday). The Wilmington Jewish Film Festival promotes a deeper understanding of Jewish history and contemporary Jewish culture and hopes to inspire appreciation for the various forms of Jewish identity. Admission: $7-$17. Thalian Hall, 310 Chestnut Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 632-2285 or www.wilmingtonjewishfilmfestival.org.

4/24 — Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

7:30 p.m. A dynamic musical performance by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center will bring together some of classical music's most influential works in order to provide a snapshot of the evolution of classicism in music. Admission: $25–75. UNCW Kenan Auditorium, Wilmington. Info: (910) 962-2500 or www.uncw.edu/arts.

4/24-25 — Motown: The Musical

7:30 p.m. *Motown: The Musical* tells the true story of Motown Records founder Berry Gordy's journey from featherweight boxer to the heavyweight music mogul who launched the careers of Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Smokey Robinson and many others. Admission: $37-$99. The Wilson Center, 703 North Third Street, Wilmington. Info and tickets: (910) 362-7999 or www.capefearstage.com.

4/26 — The Drifters Concert

7:30 p.m. An evening of live music performed by the legendary band The Drifters featuring some of their greatest hits as part of Thalian Hall's "Legends and Main Attractions" series. Admission: $22–48. Thalian Hall, 310 Chestnut Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 632-2285 or www.thalianhall.org.

4/26 — Alligator Workshop

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The workshop will be led by educator Mike Campbell of the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission and discusses the behavior and biology of alligators, and ends with a trip to Lake Waccamaw State Park to view alligators in the wild. Pre-registration required. Admission: $10. Halyburton Park, 4099 South Seventeenth Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 341-0075 or www.halyburtonpark.com.

To add a calendar event, please contact calendar@saltmagazinenc.com. Events must be submitted by the first of the month, one month prior to the event.

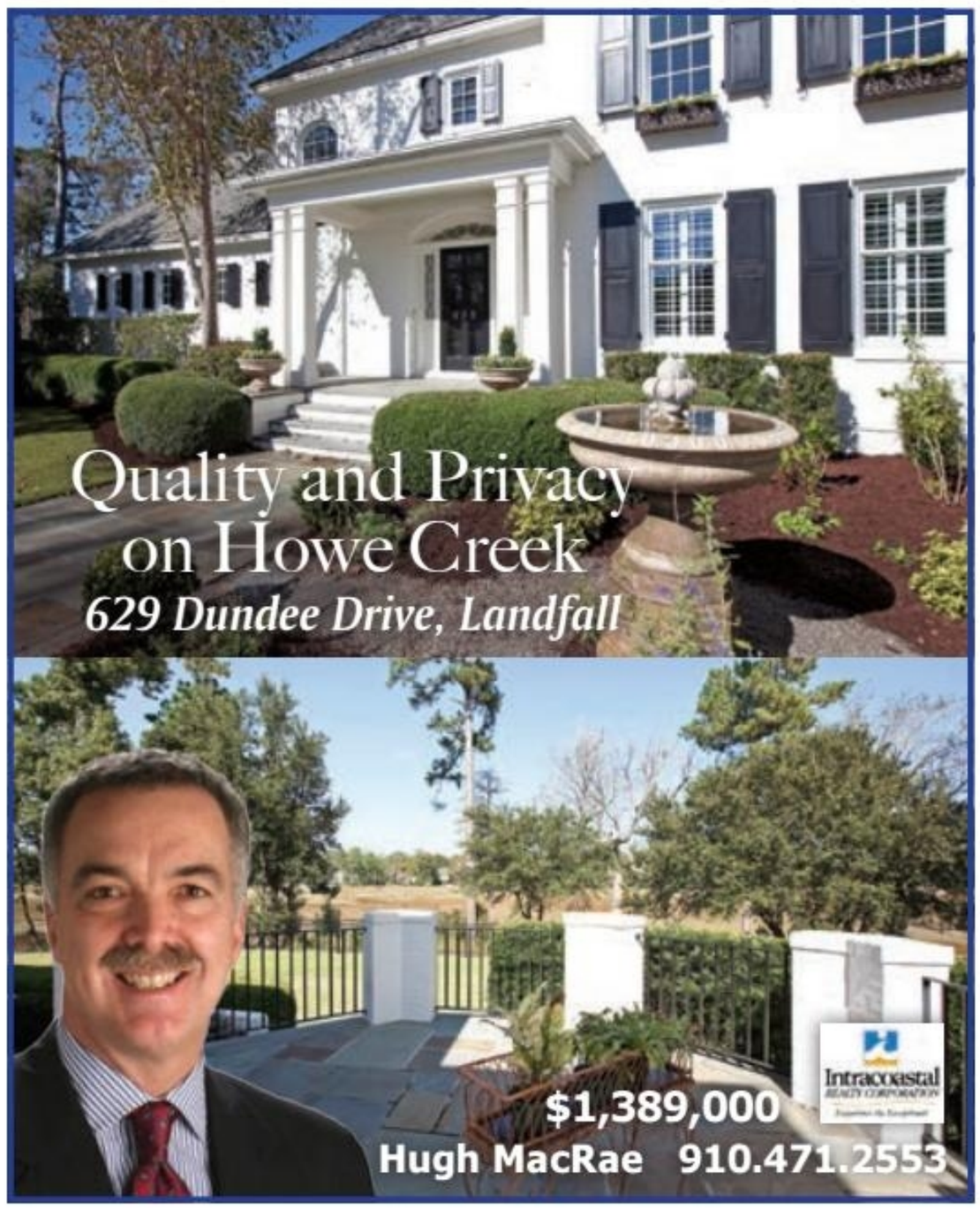
Pine Valley
ANIMAL HOSPITAL
Kenneth E. Layton, DVM

Dr. Layton received the 1st Annual Sidney Award
from Paws4People Foundation

You can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals.

Family Owned and Operated

106 Longstreet Drive | Wilmington, NC 28412 | 910.799.4500
www.PineValleyAnimalHospital.com
Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-6pm | Sat 8am-12pm



leisure world
casual furniture

offering the finest selection of quality
outdoor living furniture & accessories

6629 market street | wilmington, nc 28405 | 910.392.7748

Compassionate, creative
thinkers start here.
Inspiring Curiosity,
Discovering new worlds.
What's the road map to achieving success? Hands-on learning and heartfelt connections–with the arts, Spanish, musical literacy and social awareness. Our students learn to value their world, to think critically and achieve boldly. We guide students to become the inspired, creative thinkers of today who will chart a path to the brilliant ideas of tomorrow.
This is Friends. Start here.
fsow.org 910.791.8221
Now Enrolling for 2018-19
Montessori (Preschool-Kindergarten) & Inquiry-based School, 1st-8th Grade
PROGRESSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT, SPANISH, ART, MUSIC & P.E.,
PRE K THROUGH 8TH GRADE, AFTER SCHOOL CARE & ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS
Friends School of Wilmington
An Independent Quaker School

2018 NORTH CAROLINA
Mid-Market FAST 40
CELEBRATING SUSTAINED GROWTH

Is Your North Carolina Based Company Growing?

Growth in the middle market is critical to the expansion of North Carolina's economy and vital to job creation around the state. To honor the leading contributors to revenue and employment growth across the state, Business North Carolina and Cherry Bekaert LLP, in conjunction with Manning, Fulton & Skinner, P.A. and Regions Bank, are proud to host the eighth annual NC Mid-Market FAST 40 program. The Top 40 winners will be honored at the NC Mid-Market Fast 40 Gala Event in Fall of 2018 and featured in the November issue of Business North Carolina magazine.

Apply Online! **cbh.com/nc40**

Key Dates:
Nominations & Applications Open: **April 2, 2018**
Nominations Close: **May 31, 2018**
Applications Close: **June 15, 2018**
Winners Selected: **July 20, 2018**

Eligible Companies Must:
- Be headquartered in the state of North Carolina
- Be a commercial enterprise, not a nonprofit
- Be either privately owned or publicly held
- Have annual revenue in the range of $10M to $500M
- Demonstrate sustained revenue and employment growth over the past 3 years

See list of last year's honorees at ***cbh.com/nc40/winners***

BUSINESS Cherry Bekaert REGIONS

"EOSTRE"
Sterling and gold with Morganite

JONKHEER
&
CICADA

NOW TAKING RESERVATIONS
FOR SUMMER
JEWELRY & ART CAMPS
"CREATIVE JEWELRY FOR CREATIVE SOULS"

4410 Wrightsville Ave

Tracy McCullen
D•E•S•I•G•N
Luxury Outdoor Living
DESIGN & CONSULTATION
www.landscapesunique.com
(910) 279-1902

Big Gal's Boutique

Plus Size ReSale

833 S Kerr Ave
Wilmington, NC 28403

Shoes, Handbags, Jewelry
& Accessories For All Sizes!

910.350.8121
CASH • TRADE • CONSIGNMENT
Dress Like a Million Without Spending a Fortune!

THE ART OF MAKING MARBLE SEXY

fusion by design
bluewater surfaces
MARBLE, QUARTZ, ENGINEERED CONCRETE, SOAPSTONE COUNTERTOPS, & FURNITURE
910-233-9629
www.bluewatersurfaces.com

40 Years in the Welcoming Business!

Do you have a business that needs to get in front of newcomers or new businesses? Call me today for a very special offer!

Welcome Service LLC *is the only welcoming service personally welcoming newcomers and new businesses for 40 years to New Hanover, Brunswick and Pender Counties.*

Call Nancy Wilcox at 910-793-0950
nkwilcox58@gmail.com www.welcomeservicesllc.com

Now Open!
Island Chiropractic & Acupuncture
Dr. Melissa Ferrer Hall, DC
The *only* chiropractic and acupuncture clinic on Wrightsville Beach
Natural solutions to restoring and maintaining your health
Located in the Landing on Causeway Drive
530 Causeway Drive, Suite F1
Islandchiroandacupuncture.com
Call today for an appointment!
910.839.8615

Visit Salt online
MAGAZINE

www.SaltMagazineNC.com

Port City People

7th Annual East Coast Shag Classic

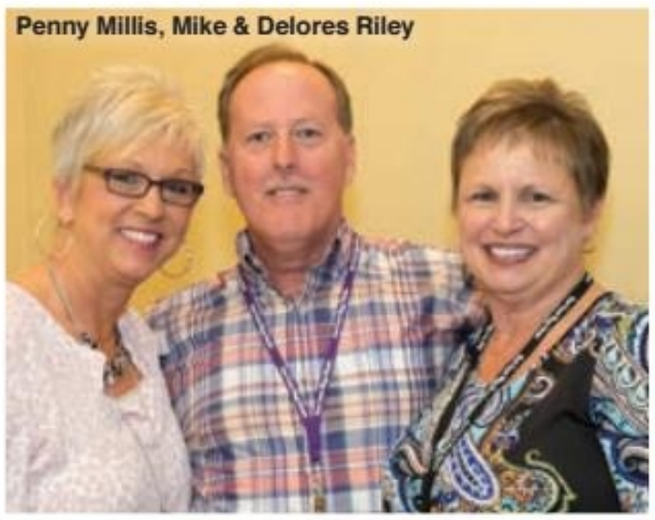
A benefit for Hope Abounds

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Photographs by Bill Ritenour

Yogi & Anna Wilson, Janice & Barry Adams

Andy & Anne Wickstrom

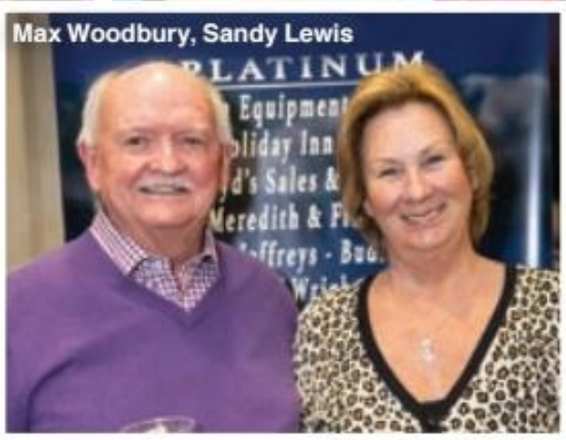

Penny Millis, Mike & Delores Riley

Susan Jackson, Meredith Conklin

Tim Ward, Jamie Kilgore

Ken & Sandy Jones

Deborah Higgins, Elizabeth Barnes


Max Woodbury, Sandy Lewis

Lloyd & Debbie Bowden

Steve & Judy Foster

Port City People

"Play Time" Preview Party

Cape Fear Museum

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Photographs by Bill Ritenour

Ryan Geer, Casey & Kevin Geer, Mike Vindell

David King, Alexandra Perillo

Dan Owen, Sheryl Mays, Kitty Yerkes, Dan Goodwin

Shari & Jeff Porter

Pepper Hill

Linda Cunningham, Haven Morrison

Beth Mendenhall, Erin Kirk, Carol Renneker, Gary Maxwell, Kate Mejaski

Tami & Brad Erbes

Gary Maxwell, Marcia Morgan

Port City People

2018 Cape Fear Heart Ball

Hosted by the American Heart Association's Cape Fear Chapter

Saturday, February 24, 2018

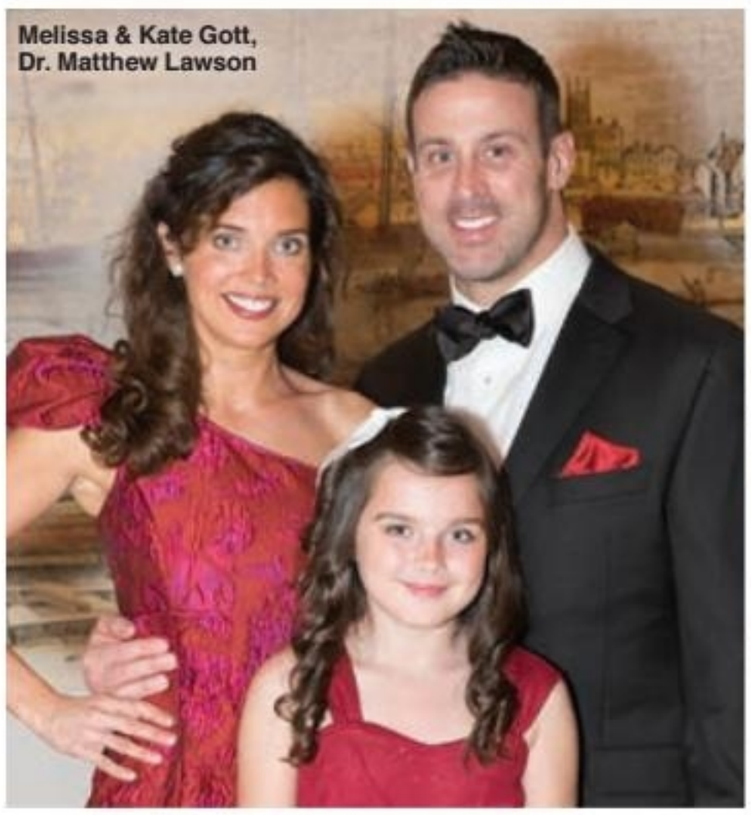
Photographs by Bill Ritenour

Mary Allison, Gary Miller

Abby & Bobby Roetger, Rachel & Creighton Hayworth

Justin & Jennifer Russo

Brianna Alianiello, Matthew Goers


Melissa & Kate Gott, Dr. Matthew Lawson

Julie & Jay Wileman, Brian Poarch, Paul Flake

Jacqueline Jackson

Ashley & Allycen Garner

Tony Tata, Sarah Stewart

Ed & Anne Murray

Chris & Rachel Hoenig, Tess Wallace, Connor & Casey Barth

Jennifer & Jon Ball

Alan & Sonya Perry

Port City People

33rd Annual YWCA Lower Cape Fear Women of Achievement Awards

Wilmington Convention Center

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Photographs by Bill Ritenour

Sarah Wright, Emma Jackson, Francine De Shields

Caitlin & Vivian Cook

Carolyn Fisher, Brenda Reeves, Iris Baker

Allison Cummings, Sheila Evans

Megan Sumrell, Carl & Jennifer Turnage

Megan Canny, Elizabeth Barfield, Natalie English, Sean Ahlum

Jacqueline Jackson, Tracey Jackson, Stephanie Bloodworth, Deborah Dicks Maxwell, Acquintta Beatty

Jennifer Robbins, Nygoah Robbins

Brandy Gonzalez, Dayma Edwards, Connie Hill

Lisa Greene, Jamesie Gentry, Meleah Evers, Rhonda Bullard-Dutton, Grace Thompson, Selena Rowell, Frances Burge

Sterling, Mary Grayson & Caroline Koone

Katie Brandis, Rob Zapple

SEASONS
STYLE & DESIGN

Presents

Grandover Springfest

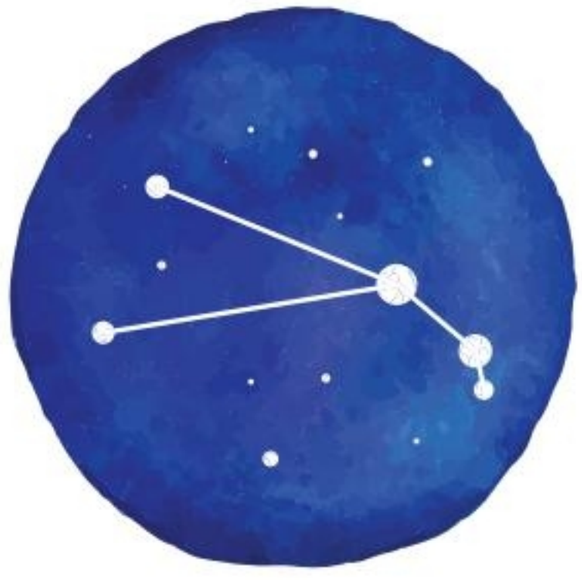
Saturday, April 28 | 9:30am - 4:00pm

9:30am	Coffee Reception	
10:00am	The Art of Home A thoughtful panel discussion with artists and designers moderated by Jim Dodson. Participants include artist William Mangum, artist Rachel Rees, columnist Maria Johnson, interior designer Chandra Young, interior designer Jason Oliver Nixon and Jeff Harris of FurnitureLand South	The Art of Golf Head out to the greens for a swing clinic conducted by Jonathan York and Eddie Isley, PGA Professionals at Grandover. Golf vendors, Ping, Titleist, Taylor Made and Bridgestone will be on hand with demonstrations
12:00pm	Lunch on the lawn with musical entertainment	
1:30pm	Tour the newly renovated Grandover Resort and FurnitureLand South's Design Center	Putting clinic with World-Renown putting instructor and 2011 Carolinas PGA Teacher of the Year, David Orr. Equipment demonstrations continue
4:00pm	Wrap Up	

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit
www.seasonsmagazine.com/springfest

GRANDOVER

Breaking Bad



It's Aries' time to shine . . . and go their own way

By Astrid Stellanova

Star Children, don't expect a description of the first sign in the horoscope. Aries folks kick over the traces, when anyone dares apply adjectives to them. Lady Gaga. Leonardo da Vinci. Maya Angelou. All Aries, and all tending to have the kind of force field that others notice. Aries don't take kindly to boredom, following the pack or tradition. They do take kindly to impulse, hacking a trail straight into the thicket and breaking norms right over your head if they have to, all in the name of the Aries fierce individuality. Diamonds, daisies and sweet peas are hallmarks of Aries, which sounds nice, right? Well, diamonds are the hardest substance on Earth — from the Greek word for "unbreakable" — just right for this fire sign. Ad Astra — Astrid

Aries (March 21–April 19)
Nobody would believe it, Ram. But your birthday most always knocks you sideways. What's in a little ole number, Sugar? You can't accept your age because you: Don't feel it, look it and *sure don't* act it. However, here you are — and that birth certificate don't lie. As an actual fact, embracing that scary new number is the first step towards discovering that it may be your luckiest one. Honey, do remember that you *are* the lucky one until your number is, well, up? (And when did you ever care what somebody else thought, anyhoo?)

Taurus (April 20–May 20)
You, being an unusually mellow and chill Taurus this month, have everybody thrown for a little ole loop. Your newfound self-restraint is about as unexpected as a fainting goat at the petting zoo. Call it age. Call it wisdom. Call it *about time.* Your friends and family are cheering you on and loving it.

Gemini (May 21–June 20)
The heart wants what it wants. And then, well, snap, it doesn't. You set out to get what you thought you wanted, made sure you got it, then threw it out the window of a moving car. Now you are going back and forth down that lonesome road hoping to find it and retrieve it. Sugar, it is too late for that, but you're not too old to learn from it.

Cancer (June 21–July 22)
You remind me of that tea towel that reads: "Loose women tightened up here." You've found a whole new sense of humor, new ways to enjoy yourself and break free, and the road to more discovery is straight ahead. Don't listen to your critics. If they insist you get tight, do it with a cocktail.

Leo (July 23–August 22)
Some people are like poison ivy, flourishing on shade. That's the problem with one of your closest confidants. Resist the urge to overshare. As irresistible as the gossip is, it is also toxic and some of that poison will spill onto you if you don't watch it.

Virgo (August 23–September 22)
Trying to be all things to all people is like trying to teach sex education and driver's education in the same car! That's a lot like what you've been doing lately — straddling two very different goals and managing neither one. What is your true intention? What do you really want, Honey?

Libra (September 23–October 22)
A recent family fracas left you smarting from a little rope-a-dope. Shake it off, Sugar. Then get yourself a new attitude and close your lips. There is nothing you can say that will make things resolve, and it is not your destiny to leave every family feud with rope burns. It will play out and you can make an exit.

Scorpio (October 23–November 21)
You're a secret intellectual. You like crossword puzzles and mind games. So, what are you doing joining a book club that only reads beer labels? Why are you hiding yourself when you are smarter than you want to admit? Fess up and step up.

Sagittarius (November 22–December 21)
You didn't just shoot yourself in the foot. You speared yourself. Lucky for you, this is not a fatal wound. In the future, you will laugh about the way you bumbled your way into a storm of epic proportions, but Honey, right now what you need most is a bandage.

Capricorn (December 22–January 19)
If the good guys really did wear white hats and sit tall in the saddle, life would be easier on all of us. But life ain't a Western. And, frankly, you have a little secret of your own. If you could unburden yourself and make amends, you might stop picking fights with the bad guys.

Aquarius (January 20–February 18)
Three times. That's how often an opportunity is going to knock. After that, it may be a dry spell. Opening the door won't be all that scary, Honey Bun. But letting a good opportunity walk away might be a thing to regret.

Pisces (February 19–March 20)
In the shoulda-coulda-woulda competition, you took first prize. Now try walking the path moving forward, instead of walking it backward. If we got it right the first time, we would all graduate from the big school of life. But nobody does. Second-guessing is not a goal to pursue.

For years, Astrid Stellanova owned and operated Curl Up and Dye Beauty Salon in the boondocks of North Carolina until arthritic fingers and her popular astrological readings provoked a new career path.

Okra Strut

An ode to the South's quintessential veggie

By Nan Graham

Ladies Fingers, gumbo or okra . . . the plant has many names and even more uses. Our okra, like many things Southern, is regarded by some as inferior, an essentially unworthy vegetable. We Southerners never remark, as some do, that it is "slimy." It's the same as saying that Aunt Tillie's nose twitches after her fourth bourbon and branch water. In these parts, we tend to ignore such aberrations and avert the eyes.

Okra is a cousin to our emblematic cotton as well as the hibiscus and hollyhock. After the boll weevil decimated King Cotton, the pesky bug turned to okra for breakfast, lunch and supper. Travelers noted okra cultivation in Egypt as far back as 1216, so like most Southerners, okra likes to trace its lineage back a bit. Even today, okra grows wild in West Africa and in parts of India.

It has been popular in our neck of the woods since the 18th century . . . reported by Thomas Jefferson. Aside from its veggie status, whether fried, pickled or paired with onions and tomatoes or used to thicken stews, okra is extraordinarily versatile. During the Civil War, the benighted plant was used by Confederates as plasma and a blood extender. Unable to get coffee, they also made do with a hot drink made from okra seeds, which they pretended was a macchiato from Starbucks.

Possible future uses for okra include a particle board material that is better than material we use now, even chopped into feed for livestock and using roots and stems as fuel. It has been used "for making rope and producing paper."

But wait until you hear the medicinal benefits. It's a great low-calorie, zero-fat (unless fried) food. Also a super fiber additive, diuretic, and even contains a male contraceptive, gossypol. Wait, there's more. Its laxative constituent feeds you good bacteria and slows the rate of sugar in the intestinal tract, stabilizing your blood sugar. Scientists claim that okra helps with acid reflux, and aids in controlling asthma.

It all sounds a bit like the snake-oil salesman in the *Wizard of Oz*, but studies are recognizing okra's value. And your mental health is not ignored. Okra is said to be excellent for those feeling exhausted and experiencing depression. Okra seems to have something for everyone.

My husband, wearing his beloved pith helmet, planted a Victory Garden in our side yard. He especially prized his lush okra plants with its star-shaped leaves and spectacular white flowers. But in the sizzling July sun, the plants were prone to fainting . . . a case of the real Victorian vapors. Extra watering revived them for a while, but soon the heat exhaustion set in again, and the okra plants bent back on their stems in a full-out swoon.

Their gardener in his pith helmet devised a rescue plan — ingenious but bizarre. He gathered every umbrella in the house, tied each umbrella to a stake next to each distressed okra plant, and opened every umbrella. Yellows, green checks, fuchsia stripes and firehouse reds (even one red, black and white Mickey Mouse vinyl number) bloomed over the garden. Dazzling!

Passersby stopped dead in their tracks at the sight of the umbrella bouquet. All onlookers agreed it was a novel horticultural solution. Despite my Rube Goldberg's heroic and theatrical efforts, the okra succumbed. The plants were taken off life support. The umbrellas were returned to their respective closets and automobiles. The day of the whimsical flowers was over . . . the riot of color . . . gone.

Okra, prone to be the object of jokes, seems to lend itself to the theater of the absurd. In Mississippi, Delta State University even has a Fighting Okra mascot . . . no fooling. The official mascot is the Statesman, which is slightly overcome with its own gravitas, especially in contrast to the overwhelming popularity of the zany Fighting Okra.

I think our Carolina cousins to the South may be on to something. The Okra Strut in Irmo, South Carolina, began in 1974 and every September offers a parade, crafts, fried okra, of course, and a highlight event called the Shoot-out at the Okra Corral . . . an eating contest featuring what else?

So if you have been sneering at this fuzzy vegetable, please give it a second chance. We all deserve one. And that old Southern standby might even become the new kale!

Nan Graham is a frequent contributor with unparalleled knowledge of the South.

Why You'll Never See A Lockbox On A HH&W Listing.

"Lockboxes are a convenient way for listing agents to not be present when your house is shown. We think our clients deserve better service than that. When a prospective buyer enters a HH&W listing; the lights are on, the blinds are open, and one of our partners is there to answer questions and professionally present the property. Call us old fashioned, but we believe personal service never goes out of style."

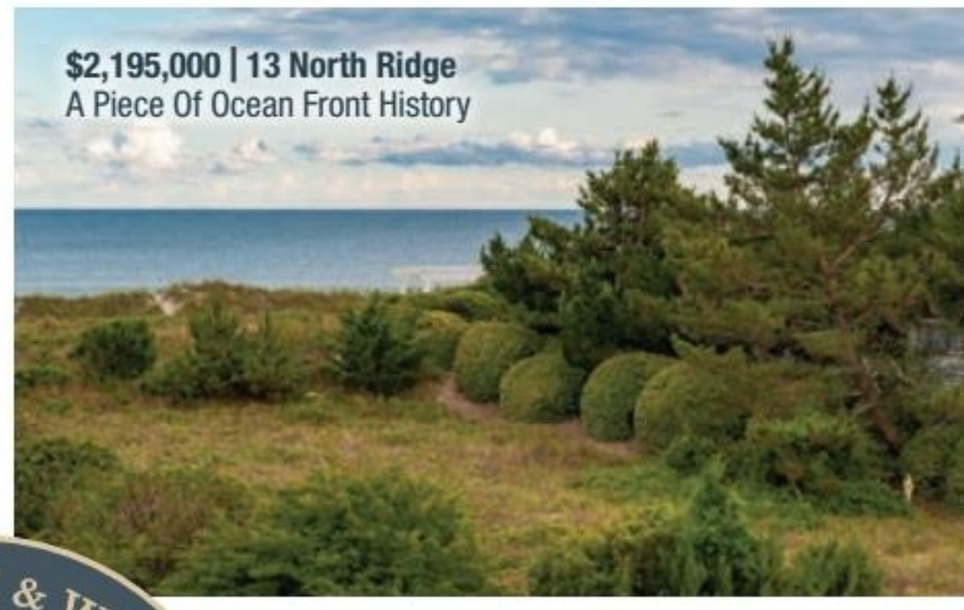
Ace Cofer

Ace Cofer, Partner

ACE COFER

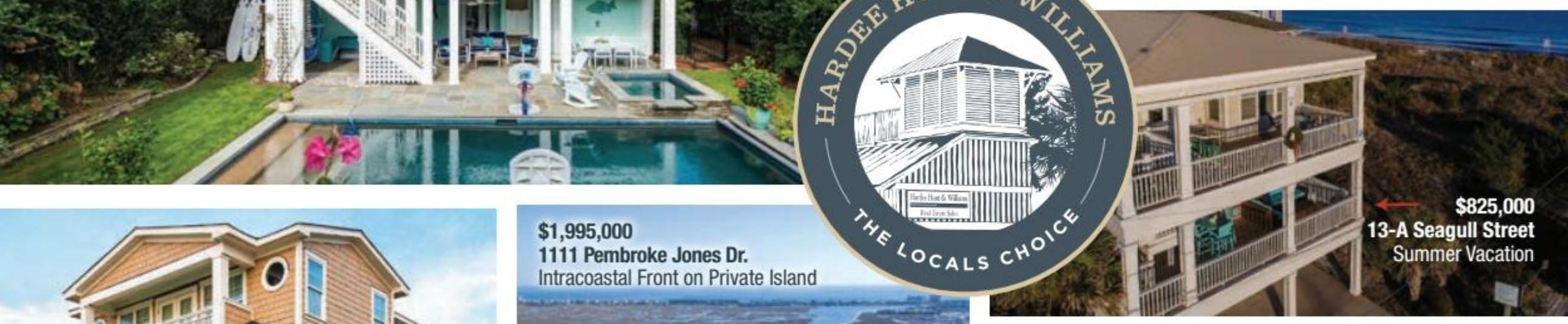
The firm's resident surfer, Ace's roots run generations-deep on Wrightsville Beach. Want to hear little-known local stories about WB? Ace is your man. Want to get the skinny on a particular neighborhood? He'll give you chapter and verse on it from memory.

$3,195,000 | 7 North Ridge
Ocean Front Enclave



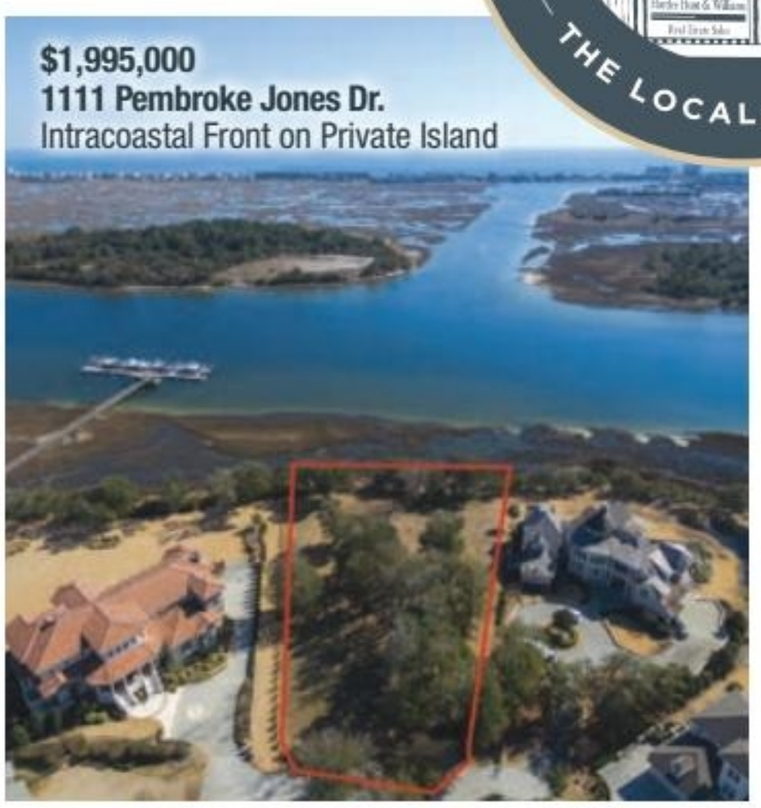
$2,195,000 | 13 North Ridge
A Piece Of Ocean Front History

HARDEE HUNT & WILLIAMS
THE LOCALS CHOICE



$825,000
13-A Seagull Street
Summer Vacation

$2,450,000 | 18 East Asheville
Ocean Front Living, Carolina Style



$1,995,000
1111 Pembroke Jones Dr.
Intracoastal Front on Private Island

$1,700,000 | 8220 Bald Eagle Lane
Intracoastal Front Paradise

Hardee Hunt & Williams • 602 Causeway Drive • Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480
Toll Free 800.852.1605 • Local 910.256.6998 • Email info@hardeehuntandwilliams.com • TheLocalsChoice.net

BEST. DECISION. EVER.

When it comes to your dream home – making sure it is perfect means tons of tough decisions. Let our knowledgeable product experts relieve the stress and restore the fun while introducing you and your design team to our extensive collection of products from the most sought after brands.

Request your appointment today at **fergusonshowrooms.com**

FERGUSON
Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery

WILMINGTON

©2018 Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. 0218 744868

FERGUSONSHOWROOMS.COM